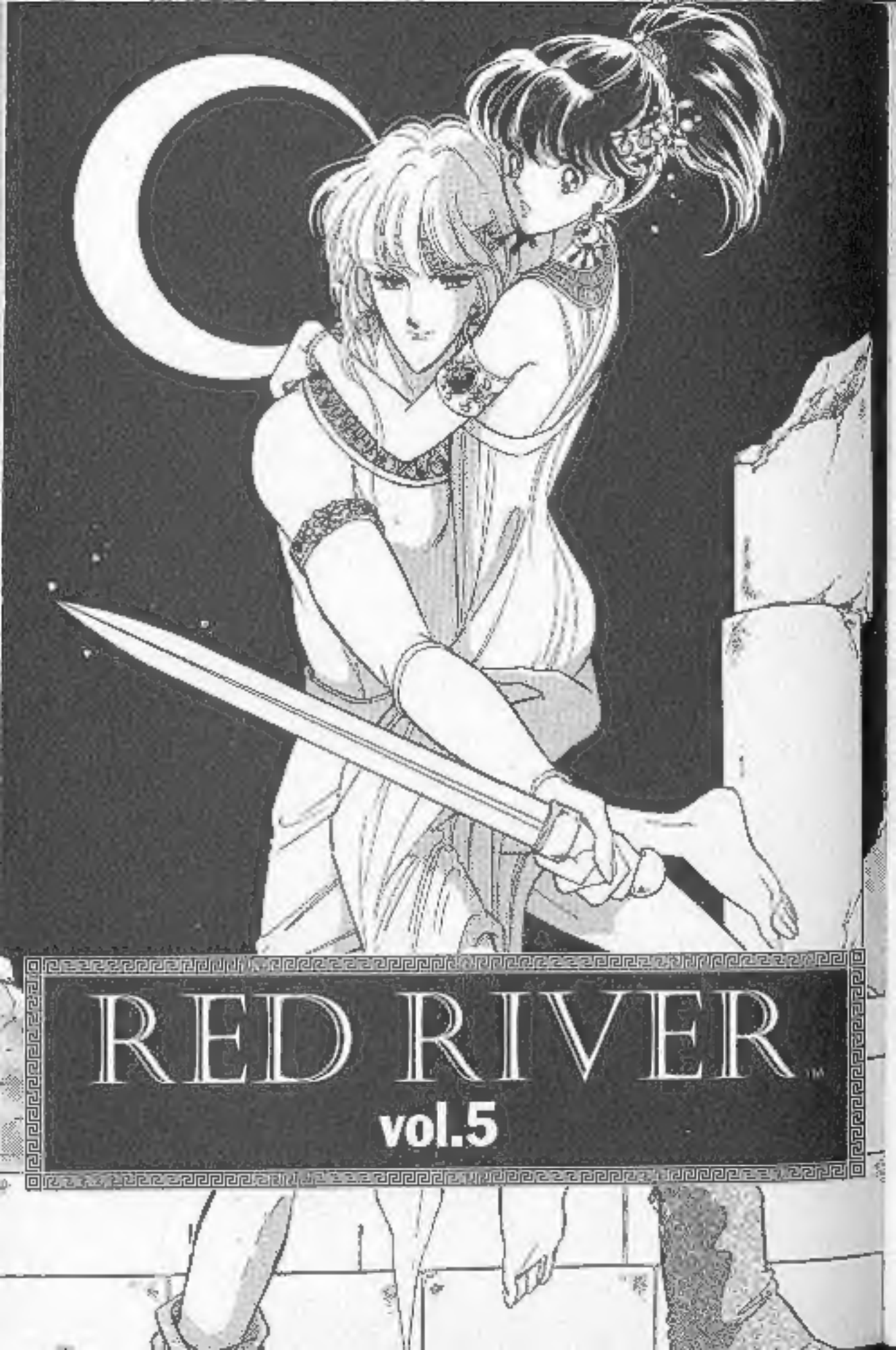
shôjo

RED RIVER™

5

Chie Shinohara


RED RIVER
vol.5

Story Thus Far:

Prince Kail
A Hittite royal prince, general, and priest-sorcerer.

Yuri
A Japanese schoolgirl magically transported to the ancient Hittite Empire.

Queen Nakia
An evil sorceress who will stop at nothing to ensure her son's succession to the throne.

Yuri is a normal junior high school student until the day she gets sucked into a puddle. She emerges in the ancient Hittite Empire, carried through space and time by the evil Queen Nakia, who wants to offer Yuri as a sacrifice. But Yuri is rescued by the handsome Prince Kail who takes her as his concubine.

Yuri's wish is to go home to present-day Japan, but for that to happen three conditions must be met: she must enlist the help of a priest-sorcerer; the city's seven springs must fill with water; and Yuri must wear the clothes she had on when she arrived. In order to get her clothes back, Yuri steals into the queen's palace and as a result, Kail's young servant, Tito, is killed. When the opportunity finally arrives for Yuri to go home, she vows to stay until she has avenged Tito.

To shield Yuri from suspicion, Kail announces that she is the incarnation of the goddess Ishtar, and the people soon come to adore her. Kail's dream is to rule an empire of justice with the help of his brother, Prince Zaamanza.
Now the Mitanni have declared war on the Hittites, and Kail's father, vowing to crush the enemy once and for all, appoints Kail to lead his armies.
Meanwhile, Yuri discovers that Queen Nakia is trying to get her hands on the fabled mind-control talisman, the Dragon's Eye. But Kail and Yuri hope to beat her to it.

Kail's first objective is the city-state Malatia, which the Mitanni have taken as their forward base. Kail declares he will conquer Malatia in five days and enters the city as a guest of the Hakim.

YES.
BUT THEY'RE FINE WHERE THEY ARE. YOU NEEDN'T MAKE ROOM FOR THEM ON THE PALACE FLOOR.
YES, BUT...
WILL YOUR ARMY WHICH WAITS OUTSIDE THE CITY BE STAYING, TOO?

THEY'RE DRESSED LIKE THE SOLDIERS OF MALATIA, BUT I'M SURE THEY'RE ANTANN.
THERE ARE SO MANY GUARDS HERE.
STAY WITH US AS LONG AS YOU LIKE, YOUR HIGHNESS.
AS YOU WISH...

WHAT IS PRINCE KAIL THINKING?
WAR IS SUCH ONEROUS BUSINESS.
IF THEY DECIDE TO KILL US, WE'RE IN BIG TROUBLE.

I'D BE MOST GRATEFUL IF I COULD STAY HERE UNTIL HIS HEAD COOLS, HAKIM.
I WAS APPALLED... WHEN MY FATHER DECLARED HE WOULD LAUNCH THIS... OPERATION.

AND MILADY WILL ENSURE THAT I DON'T GET BORED AT NIGHT.
SLURP
HE'S PROBABLY OFF ACHIEVING ANOTHER STUNNING CONQUEST RIGHT NOW.
THIS IS A TRADING CITY, NO? I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO VISIT YOUR BAZAARS!
GULP
YECH... WAS THAT A GOOD YEAR FOR TONGUE?!
SEE? A SWEET WINE, EH?

!!
I PREFER TO RELAX HERE.
I'LL LET MY BROTHERS HANDLE IT...
THIS IS NO TIME FOR SMOOCHING!
WHAT'S HE DOING?
GLUG
MY MOTHER TOOK HIM IN, SO HE GIVES ME CREDIT FOR HALF OF HIS VICTORIES, THE LITTLE DEAR.
OH, THAT WAS THE WORK OF MY YOUNGER BROTHER.
YOUR PARDON, PRINCE KAIL...
I WISH TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR BRILLIANT VICTORY AT KIZZUWATNA.

EEK.
ESPECIALLY IN BED, EH?
PST!
OH, YES. I'LL TAKE MY LEAVE.
IT SEEMS HIS HIGHNESS WISHES TO BE ALONE WITH HIS CONCUBINE.
YOU MUST BE TIRED FROM THE LONG JOURNEY.
I NEVER SAID THAT!
GREAT HAKHA.
WHAT? YOU'RE SLEEPY?
VERY WELL.

SHE IS VERY... EXOTIC...
AND SO CHARMINGLY INNOCENT.
YES. CUTE, ISN'T SHE?
YOUR CONCUBINE, PRINCE KAIL?
GIVE HER A TWIRL, MY DEAR.
SHE'S BEEN WITH ME FOR THREE MONTHS NOW.
OH.
OH, NO. SHE'S QUITE EXPERIENCED.

NO. BUT I MUST INFORM HIM OF THIS, NONETHELESS. I'LL SEND A RIDER IMMEDIATELY.
IT SEEMS THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS...
NEEDN'T WORRY ABOUT PRINCE KAIL.
WE'LL ALLOW HIM TO SPEND HIS LAST DAYS ENJOYING HIMSELF.
AS YOU WISH.
THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS WILL SURELY HAVE KAIL'S HEAD WHEN HE RETURNS.
...

GOOD-NIGHT TO YOU.
OH, I SHALL, HAKIM.
PRINCE KAIL MURSILI...
SLEEP WELL.
BUT, PLEASE... LET'S KEEP THAT BETWEEN US.
BUT OF COURSE.
TO QUIET THE SOLDIERS WHO DIDN'T WANT A WOMAN RIDING IN TO BATTLE WITH THEM.
THE PRINCE INVENTED THAT TALE...
QUITE.
I SEE. YOUR JOB MUST BE MOST...DEMANDING.
ISHTAR, THE GODDESS OF WAR.
I'VE HEARD THAT PRINCE KAIL MURSILI'S CONCUBINE IS...
OH, THAT RUMOR...
EXCUSE ME, SIR.

WHAT?
HALF OF MY PLAN HAS ALREADY BEEN EXECUTED.
AND WE'VE JUST ACCOMPLISHED THAT.
THE MOST DIFFICULT PART OF SEIZING A CITY IS GETTING INSIDE.
WITHOUT BLOODSHED?
HE MEANS TO TAKE THE CITY WITHOUT KILLING ANYONE?
MALATIA WILL BE TAKEN WITHOUT BLOODSHED.
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF FIGHTING.
BUT WE CAN'T FIGHT A WHOLE CITY!
THEY'VE REDUCED THE GUARDS BY HALF.
LOOK.
IT WAS AN ACT?
SNIFF
MY PERFORMANCE WAS CONVINCING, EH?
PRINCE KAIL, NOW WILL YOU TELL ME HOW YOU PLAN TO CONQUER MALATIA?
THAT WAS WORSE THAN RIDING THAT HORSE ON THE BATTLEFIELD.
PHEW... I'M EXHAUSTED.

WITHOUT BLOODSHED...
CAN WE REALLY DO IT?
THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS'S ABSENCE MAKES THIS POSSIBLE.
IF HE WERE HERE TO DEFEND THE CITY, IT WOULDN'T WORK.
WE ARE GOING TO DO IT.
EXACTLY.
OH!
THAT'S WHY YOU ASKED PRINCE ZANNANZA TO LURE THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS AWAY FROM HERE.
ALL RIGHT, WE'VE NO TIME TO LOSE.
FIND ME THE DEPLOYMENT MAP.
YES, YOUR HIGHNESS!

BUT BEFORE THAT, WE SHALL SET FIRE TO MALATIA'S ARMORIES. WE'LL DEPRIVE MITANNI OF A STRONGHOLD AND AVOID A FULL-SCALE BATTLE.
YES.
WE SHALL OPEN THE WESTERN AND EASTERN GATES AND LET IN THE HITTITE ARMY.

THUS, WE TAKE THE CITY QUICKLY WITHOUT WASTING RESOURCES OR LIVES.
AND ONE MORE DAY JUST IN CASE. THAT'S FIVE DAYS IN ALL.
TWO DAYS TO PREPARE FOR THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS'S INEVITABLE ATTACK...
ONE DAY FOR OUR TROOPS TO TAKE CONTROL OF THE CITY...
ONE DAY TO LEARN WHERE THE GUARDS ARE DEPLOYED...

I'LL INVESTIGATE WHEN I SEARCH FOR THE MAP TONIGHT.
YOU TWO REST WELL. GOOD-NIGHT.
A BOX OF GOLD-INLAID IVORY...
I DON'T KNOW.
NO ONE HAS SEEN IT. BUT SOME SAY IT'S A REAL DRAGON'S EYE FROM ANCIENT TIMES. OTHERS SAY IT'S JUST A SCARLET STONE.
IT IS SAID TO BE SEALED IN A BOX OF GOLD-INLAID IVORY THAT FITS IN THE HANDS.
WE'LL GO TO THE CITY HALL AND LOOK FOR IT.
ALL FORTIFIED CITIES HAVE ONE.
DE-PLOYMENT MAP? DOES SUCH A THING EXIST?
THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE WE SHOULD LOOK FOR.
WHAT DOES THE DRAGON'S EYE LOOK LIKE?
YURI?
THAT FABLED TALISMAN SAID TO HOLD THE SECRET OF CONTROLLING PEOPLE'S MINDS. YES. WE MUST FIND IT BEFORE THE QUEEN OR THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS DO!
THE DRA-GON'S EYE.
THE DRAGON'S EYE!
IT SHOULD BE HERE IN MALATIA, RIGHT?

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RED RIVER.

Ancient Hittite royal Prince Kail and modern teen Yori continue to battle to save Kail's kingdom and to be with one another! The two journey to the city of Malatia to prepare for battle with the enemy's armies. Yori plots to foil the plans of the Prince of Darkness. If her attempt fails and she becomes a prisoner of the evil prince, she may have to surrender her relationship with Kail—and her way back to modern-day Japan!

VIZ

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This book reads from right to left.

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VIZ

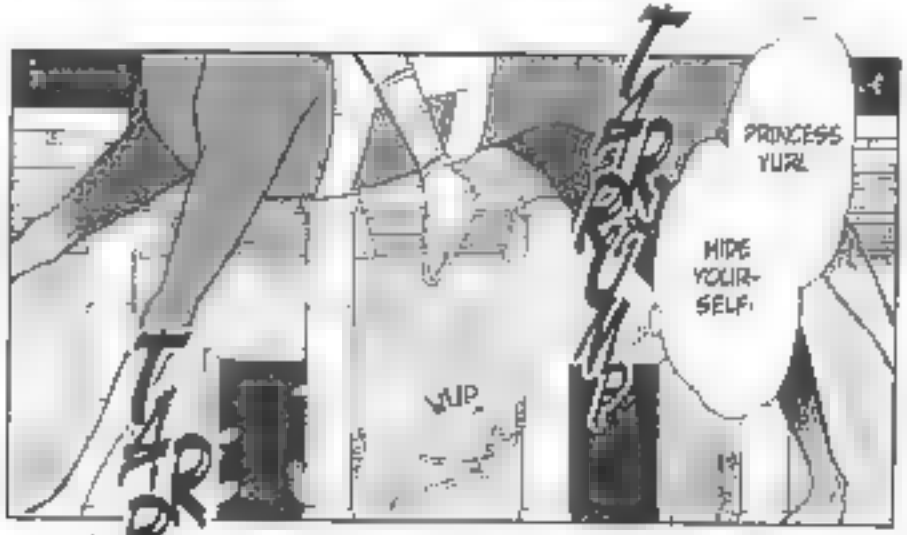
PRINCESS YURI
YOU REALLY SHOULD HAVE STAYED WITH PRINCE KARL
I... I KNOW.
BUT STAYING WITH HIM...
IS A PROBLEM.

RUSTLE
VERY WELL.
PLEASE BE CAREFUL, EVERYONE.
I'LL GO WITH YOU!!
HAH.
YOU'RE SHORT-HANDED! THE MORE OF US, THE BETTER. LET'S GO!
BUT WAIT
YES. IT'S TOO DANGEROUS.
PRINCESS YURI, YOU SHOULD REST.

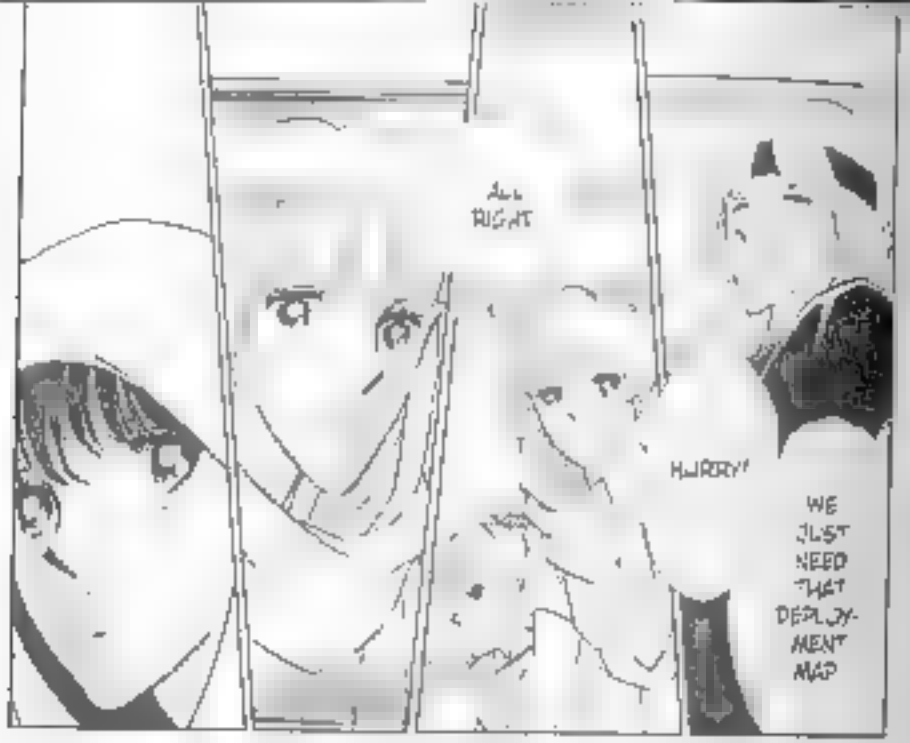
LAST NIGHT, I PRETENDED I WAS ASLEEP BUT I DON'T THINK I CAN KEEP DOING THAT FOR-EVER.
YURI.
PRINCESS YURI!
HUH?

I KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SOME-ONE'S CONCU-BINE
I'M FINDING IT SUFFOCATING TO SLEEP WITH PRINCE KAIL LATELY
I LIKE PRINCE KAIL VERY MUCH, BUT
I DON'T FEEL READY
YET

THE MAP SHOULD BE THERE
THIS IS THEIR CITY HALL
FIND THE HAKIM'S OFFICE
THIS MUST BE THE MITANNI'S CACHE OF PLUNDER!
MAYBE WE CAN FIND THE DRAGON'S EYE


PRINCESS YURI
HIDE YOURSELF!
YUP.
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP

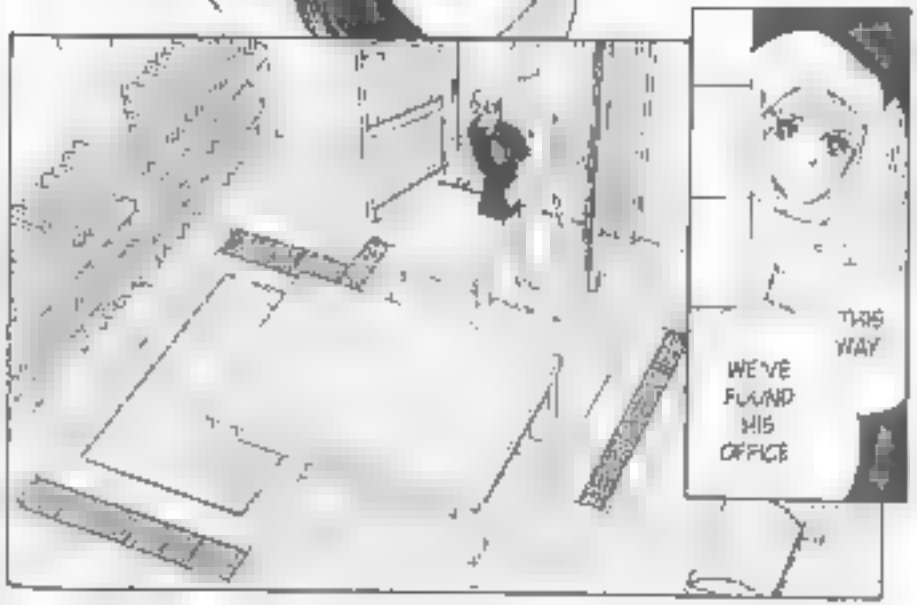
BUT PLEASE BE CAREFUL.
IF THE GUARDS SEE US, WE'LL BE DEAD BEFORE THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS RETURNS.
OF COURSE, THEY'RE EXPECTING THIS MOVE
OUR TROOPS OUTSIDE WILL STOP HIM, WON'T THEY?
PROBABLY A MESSENGER SENT TO TELL THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS ABOUT US.
WHO'S THAT?


ALL RIGHT
HURRY!
WE JUST NEED THAT DEPLOY-MENT MAP

SWK

PRINCESS YUAL
QUEEN NAKIA WOULDN'T ALLOW THE DRAGON'S EYE TO BE TRANSPORTED IN PLAIN SIGHT
IT WOULD BE WELL HIDDEN
WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO LOOK FOR IT IN THIS MOUNTAIN OF BOOTY NOW
WE'LL SEARCH FOR IT AFTER MALATIA HAS BEEN TAKEN.

YES. YOU'RE RIGHT
IT'S HIDDEN.


THIS WAY
WE'VE FOUND HIS OFFICE

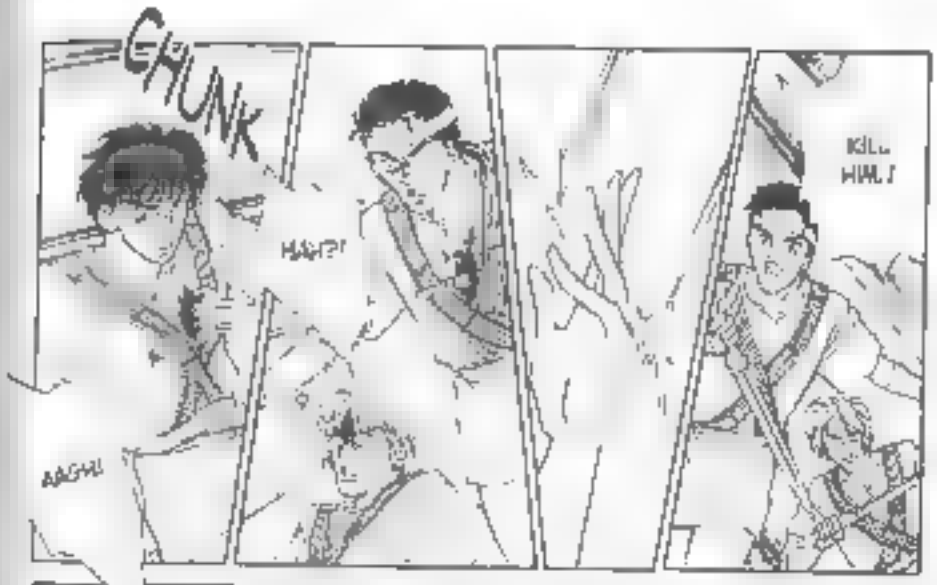
LET'S HURRY AND COPY IT
THIS IS GOING WELL.
TRUE.
IF EVERYTHING GOES THIS SMOOTHLY WE CAN CONQUER LOTS OF FORTIFIED CITIES IN TEN MONTHS.
THEN WE'LL PUT IT BACK--
JUST AS IT WAS!

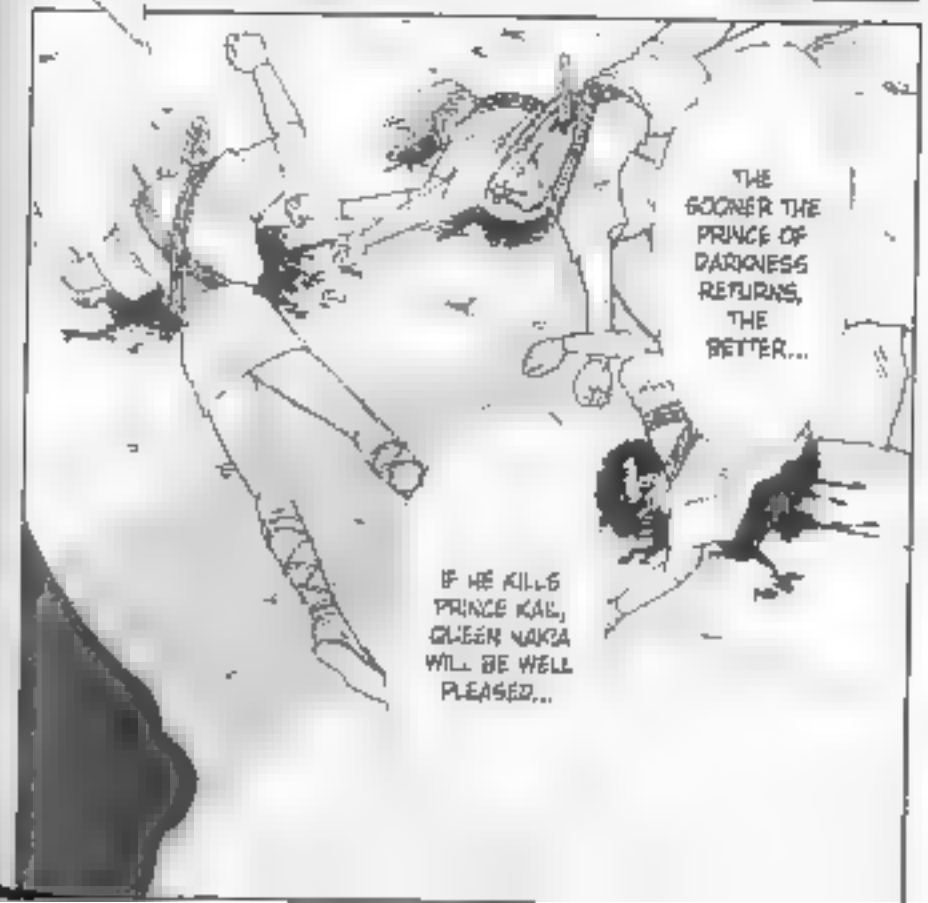
FWUP
I FOUND IT!
IT'S THE MAP!

HE MUSTN'T REACH THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS. DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!
HERE COMES A RIDER FROM MALAYA.
I WON'T
WAIT

STEP ASIDE! IF THAT RIDER GETS THROUGH, PRINCE KAIL WILL BE IN DANGER.
WHAT IS YOUR BUSINESS HERE?
YOU !
SHUK
YEE.
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY I'M HERE.
AGH!
WHAT?
!! YOU.

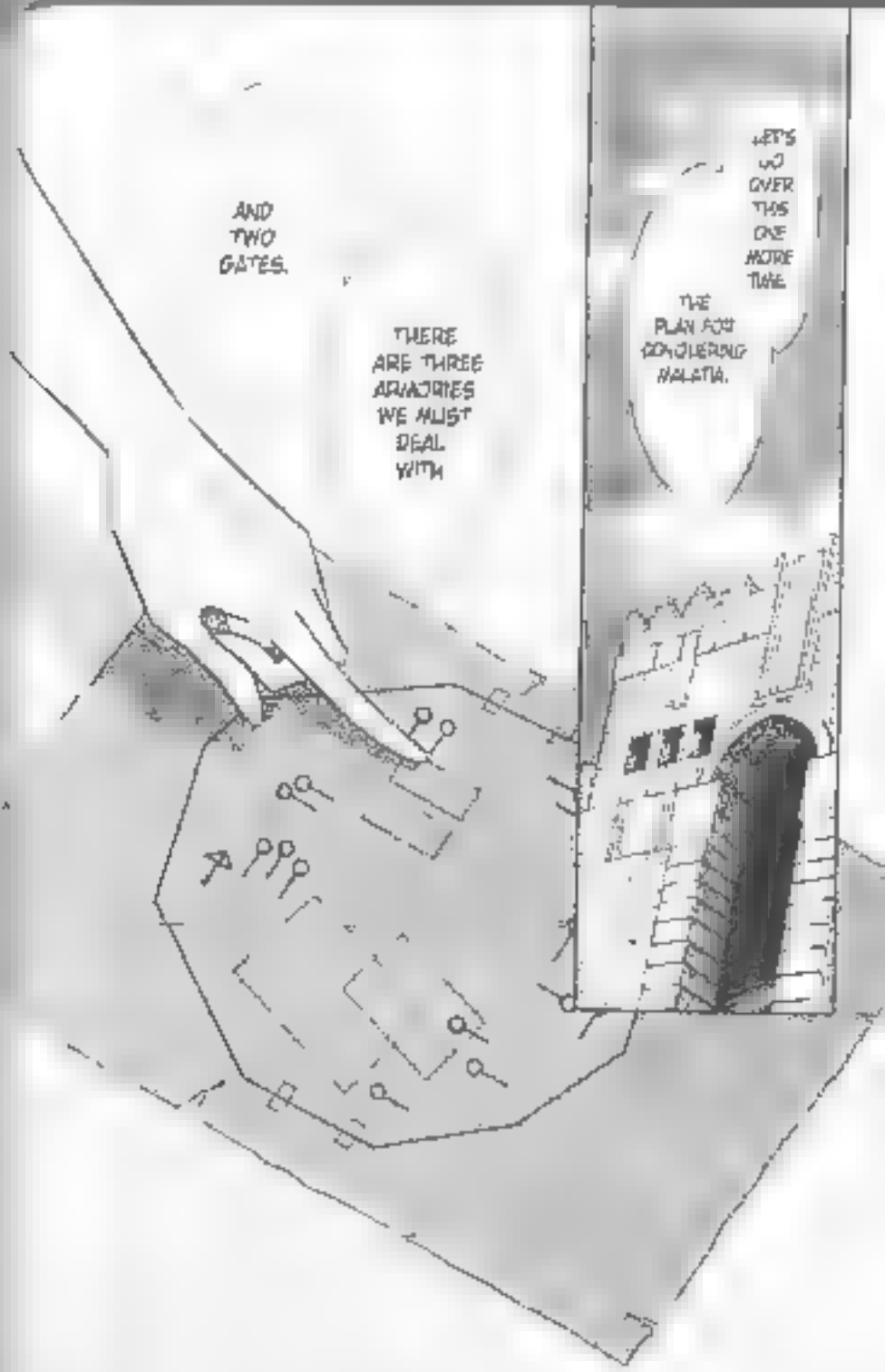
BEFORE WE LET THE TROOPS IN
WE SHOULD GET SOME REST
OKAY!
WE HAVE THE MAP AND WE HAVE FOUR MORE DAYS UNTIL THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS RETURNS.


CHUNK
HAH?!
KILL HIM!
AAGH!


THE SOONER THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS RETURNS, THE BETTER...
IF HE KILLS PRINCE KAL, QUEEN VAKA WILL BE WELL PLEASED...

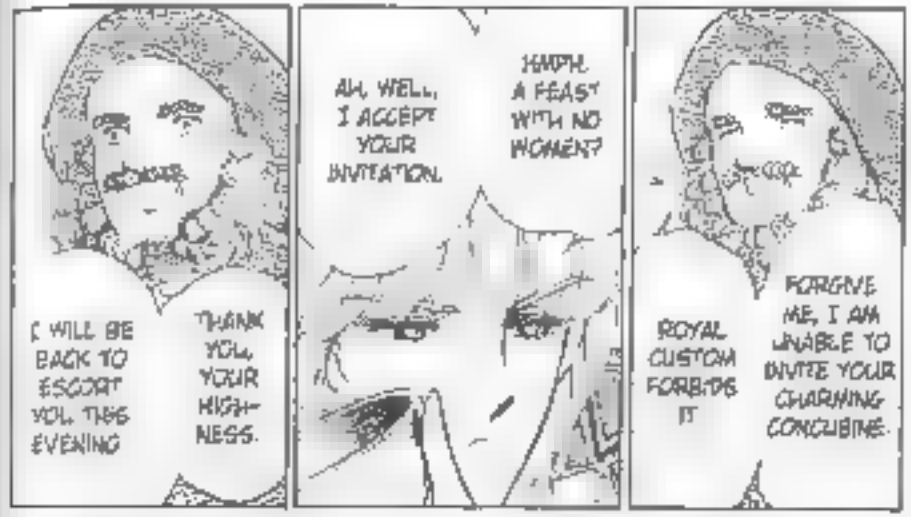
WE'LL SET FIRE TO THE ARMORIES.
THEN WE'LL OPEN THE GATES AND.
. LET THE SOLDIERS IN.

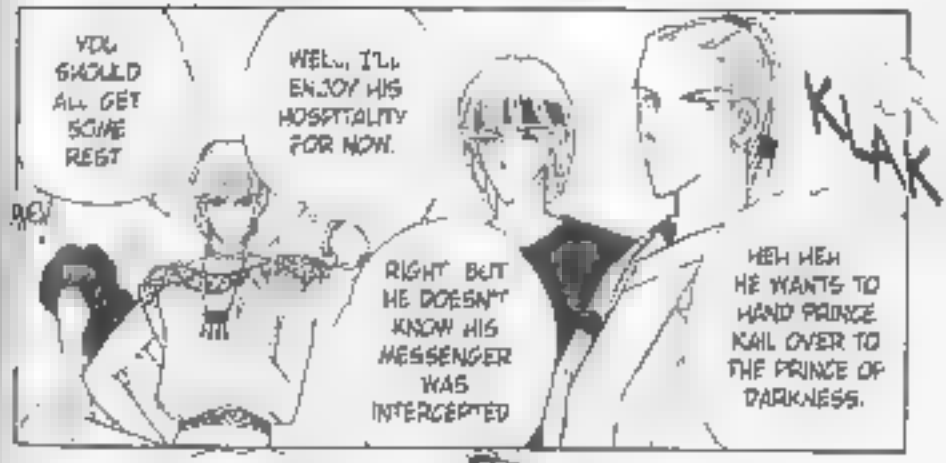
WHILE YOU ARE DOING THAT. YURI AND I WILL
. DISTRACT THE HAKIM AND GENERAL DANA.


LET'S GO OVER THIS ONE MORE TIME.
THE PLAN FOR CONQUERING MALETIA.
THERE ARE THREE ARMORIES WE MUST DEAL WITH
AND TWO GATES.

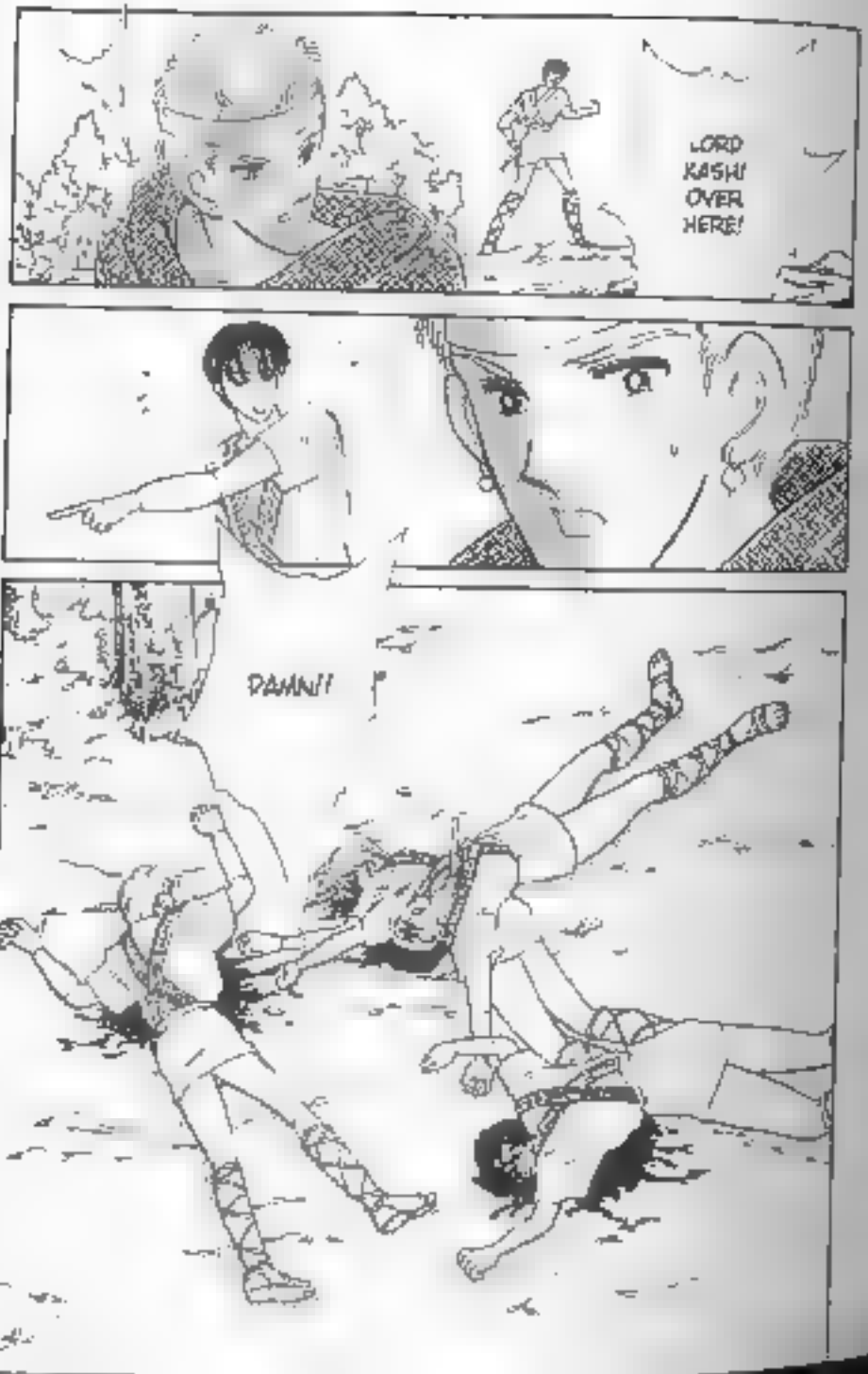
THE HAKIM! HIDE THE MAP!
KNOCK KNOCK
MAY I COME IN?
GOOD MORNING, PRINCE KAL.
I WISH TO HOST A FORMAL FEAST TONIGHT IN HONOR OF YOUR VISIT WOULD YOU BE MY GUEST?
IT IS A BEAUTIFUL DAY YOUR HIGHNESS.
A FORMAL FEAST?!
THAT MEANS ONLY MALE ROYALS ARE INVITED?
THEN ONLY ILBANI AND I WOULD BE ALLOWED TO ATTEND
IS EVERY-THING CLEAR? MAKE SURE YOU GET WORD TO THE SOLDIERS OUTSIDE!
YES, SIR!
WE'LL PUT OUR PLAN INTO ACTION TOMORROW AT DAWN!

PRINCE KAIL ?!
WAP
YOU WOUND ME ONE NIGHT OF LOVE WON'T MIND ME.
KLAK
OF ALL THE PREPARATIONS ARE DONE, AND WE HAVE NOTHING TO DO UNTIL MORNING
ALONE WITH PRINCE KAIL FOR THE REST OF THE NIGHT


I WILL BE BACK TO ESCORT YOU THIS EVENING
THANK YOU, YOUR HIGHNESS.
AH, WELL, I ACCEPT YOUR INVITATION.
HMPH. A FEAST WITH NO WOMEN?
ROYAL CUSTOM FORBIDS IT
FORGIVE ME, I AM UNABLE TO INVITE YOUR CHARMING CONCUBINE.


YOU SHOULD ALL GET SOME REST
WELL, I'LL ENJOY HIS HOSPITALITY FOR NOW.
KLAK
RIGHT BUT HE DOESN'T KNOW HIS MESSENGER WAS INTERCEPTED
HEH HEH HE WANTS TO HAND PRINCE KAIL OVER TO THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS.

I KNOW YOU MUST FLAUNT YOUR ARDOR FOR YURI IN YOUR CURRENT ROLE...
BUT BE CAREFUL NOT TO EXHAUST YOURSELF.
YES, YOUR HIGHNESS PLEASE EXCUSE ME...


LORD KASHI OVER HERE!
DAMN!!

THEY WERE WAITING IN AMBUSH AROUND HERE.
YES, SIR!
WE'D BETTER HAVE A LOOK.
KLANK
KLANK
KLANK
THEY SHOULD'VE REPORTED BY NOW
WE'VE HAD NO WORD FROM THE MEN WE SENT TO INTERCEPT THE MESSENGERS FROM THE CITY?

RUS
IT
WHAT?! KAIL MURSILI IS A GUEST OF THE HAKIM?!
PRINCE OF DARK-NESS!
A RIDER HAS JUST ARRIVED FROM MALATIA
THAT FOOL! WHY DID HE LET HIM IN?
THE HITTITE OBVIOUSLY INTENDS TO CAPTURE THE CITY FROM WITHIN!!

THE KNIFE PROVIDES NO CLUE
WHO DID THIS?!
THIS MEANS THE MESSENGER GOT PAST THEM!
WE'LL WORRY ABOUT WHO DID IT LATER
AND THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS KNOWS THAT PRINCE KAIL IS IN MALATIA!

WHAT?
PRINCE ZARKHAN-IA!
THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS IS WITH-DRAWING!!
IF HE GOES BACK NOW, MY BROTHER WILL BE...
DAMN! WORD MUST HAVE REACHED HIM FROM MALATIA.

THIS ARMY WAS A DECOY!
THAT'S WHY THEY'RE JUST SITTING AROUND!
ALL FORCES: WE'RE RETURNING TO MALATIA WITH ALL SPEED!!
KLOP
KLOP
KLOP
RRMMB
RRMMB..

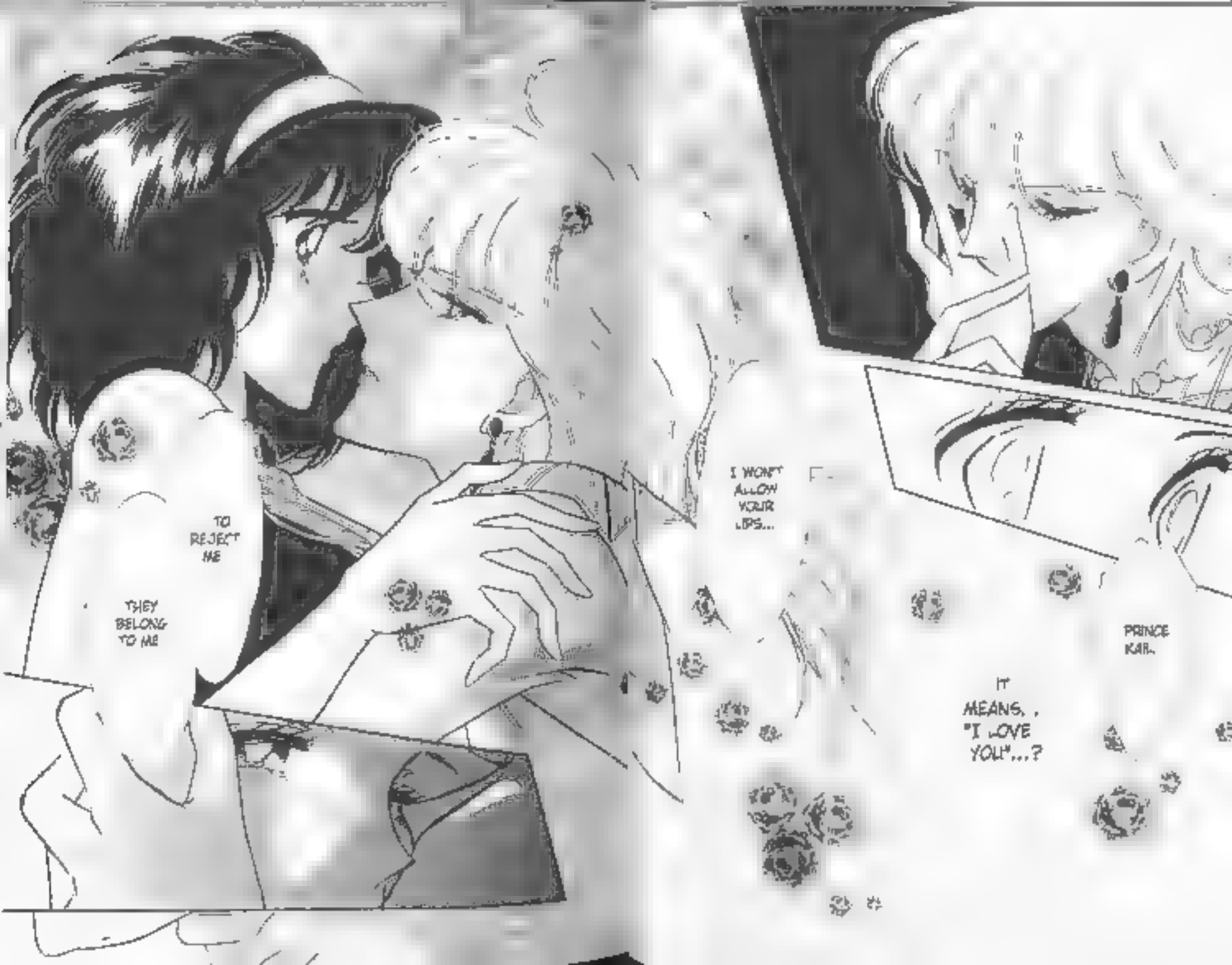
BEK!
PRINCE KAL?
WHEN WE'RE ALONE IN THIS ROOM DOING NOTHING, IT FEELS AWKWARD
AND IF I REJECT HIM AGAIN, HE'LL BE ANGRY
YOU HAVE NO KNACK FOR THIS GAME, YURI
I'VE WON TEN TIMES IN A ROW
WELL, LET'S PLAY ONE MORE GAME!
YOU'VE ALREADY DONE THAT TWICE
OKAY THEN, I'LL CLEAN THE ROOM
BUT
OH! I LOST AGAIN?
THAT DOES IT

OW!
PRINCE KAIL?
!!
I DON'T WANT TO FORCE YOU.
YOU DON'T WANT THIS, DO YOU.
BUT IT IS NOT PLEASANT TO SEE YOU AVOIDING ME.
IT MAKES ME WANT TO TORMENT YOU A LITTLE

IN MY COUNTRY A MAN MAKES LOVE TO A WOMAN HE'S FOND OF
THAT'S HOW HE EXPRESSES HIS FEELINGS TO HER.
N-NO.
MAYBE THAT SEEMS NATURAL TO HIM.
BUT I, I
BECAUSE HE'S A GROWN MAN.

PRINCE KAIL HAS NEVER SAID HOW HE FEELS ABOUT ME.
IF WE DO THINGS IN THE RIGHT ORDER, THIS SHOULD COME FIRST
IS THIS TOO CHILDISH FOR HIM?
GASP
THIS ISN'T MUCH FUN.
HANDS TO YOURSELF YET
I LIKE THE WAY WE DO THINGS IN MY COUNTRY BETTER.
SNUFF

Y-YOU WILL?
WHAT DO MEN DO IN YOUR COUNTRY?
I'LL DO WHATEVER YOU TELL ME TO
HOW CAN I MAKE YOU WANT ME?
HOW DO THEY SHOW THEIR AFFECTION?
WHAT KIND OF SPELL ARE YOU CASTING?
IT'S A SYMBOL THAT MEANS "I LOVE YOU."
ANYONE IN MY COUNTRY WOULD RECOGNIZE IT
THEIR AFFECTION..?
SNUFF
PUSH


THEY BELONG TO ME
TO REJECT ME
I WON'T ALLOW YOUR LIPS...
PRINCE KAR.
IT MEANS, "I LOVE YOU!"...?

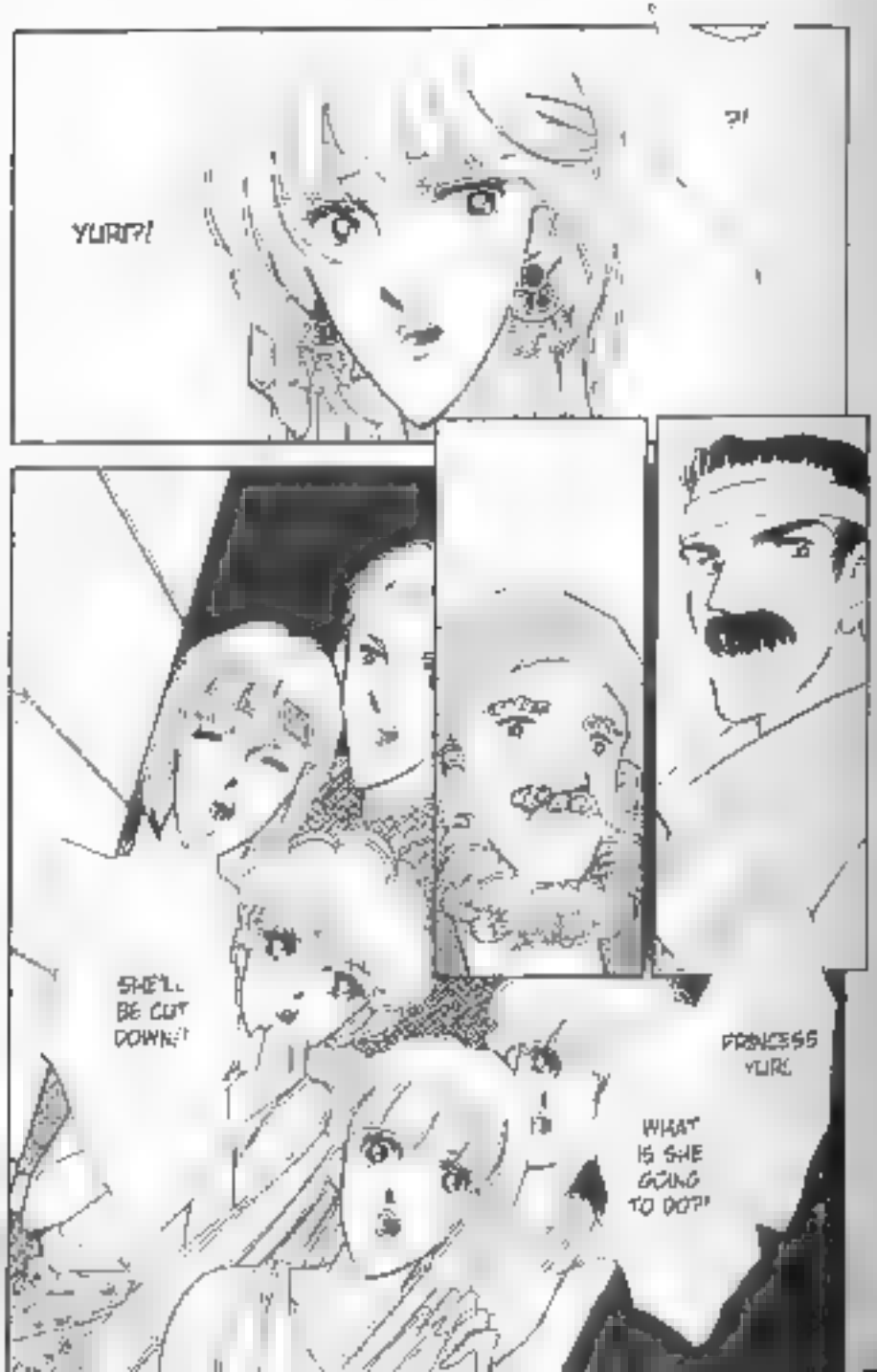
PRINCE KAIL
AUGH!
GASP
FORGIVE ME FOR DISTURBING YOU!
PARDON THE INTRUSION, BUT
THE HEATH HAS COME TO ESCORT YOU TO THE FEAST
OH, YEAH.
WE'RE IN THE HEART OF THE ENEMY'S STRONGHOLD
I'LL NEED A MOMENT TO CHANGE.
OH, IS IT TIME ALREADY?

RUSTLE RUSTLE
KIKKURI! THIS MAN WISHES TO SEE PRINCE KAI!
YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN, RIGHT BROTHER ?!
KASH?
BLAB
POWERFUL MEN ARE HARD TASK-MASTERS, AREN'T THEY?
HMPH. WHY DO THEY SEND ME ON SUCH A TRIVIAL ERRAND?
BLAB
BLAB
WAP
KASH?! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
KIKKURI, LISTEN TO ME
MY DUTY IS DONE, I'LL JUST BE GOING NOW
PHEW
THOSE IDIOT BUREAUCRATS INSIST THAT THEY MUST HAVE PRINCE KAI'S SEAL IN ORDER TO REQUISITION MORE BEANS
THEY WON'T SEND MORE BEANS WITHOUT THE PRINCE'S APPROVAL!
FOR BEANS! BEANS!!
RIGHT
WE NEED ONLY AVOID SUSPICION UNTIL WE MAKE OUR MOVE AT DAWN.
THINGS SEEM TO BE GOING WELL

KUKUKU.
THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS WILL BE HERE TONIGHT!
WHAT?!
THE HAKIM'S MESSENGER GOT THROUGH.
WHAT HAPPENED, KASH?
I'LL TELL YOU THE DETAILS LATER.
PRINCE KAIL MUST BE WARNED AT ONCE!
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
PRINCE KAIL IS ATTENDING THE HAKIM'S FORMAL FEAST.
THIS IS A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH! I'D FIND AN EXCUSE TO SUMMON PRINCE KAIL.
IF THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS RETURNS NOW, ALL IS LOST!
HE'LL BEHEAD PRINCE KAIL!
THEY'LL SUSPECT WE KNOW THEIR PLAN AND KILL US ALL NOW!
BUT IF WE DO ANYTHING UNUSUAL
THERE AREN'T ENOUGH OF US TO PROTECT PRINCE KAIL.

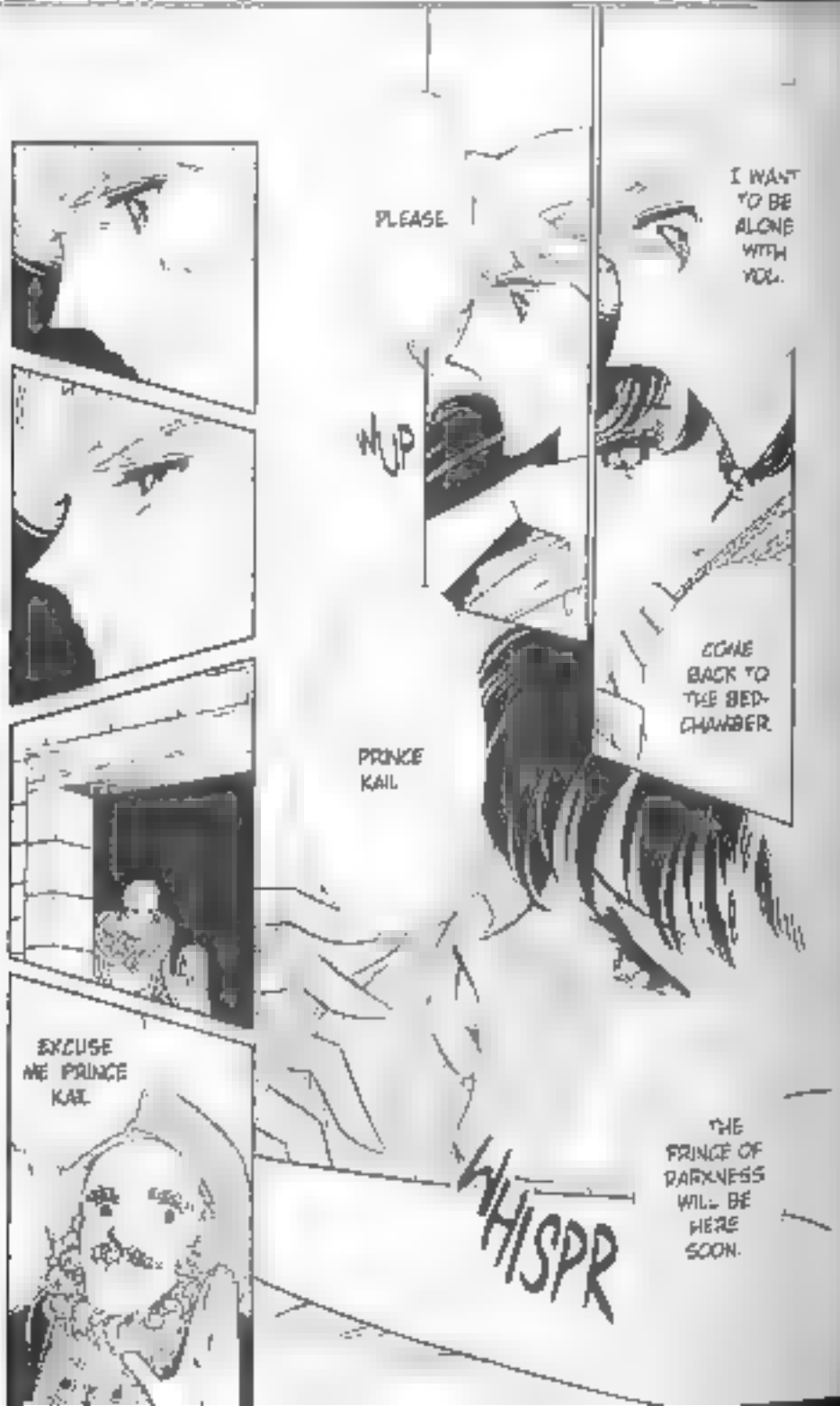
PRINCESS YURI, WAIT!
THEY MAY SLAY YOU ON THE SPOT--AND PRINCE KAIL WON'T BE ABLE TO STOP THEM.
WOMEN ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THERE.
I'LL GO IN.
OUT OF MY WAY! I HAVE TO WARN HIM!
HEAD, STOP HER!!
PRINCESS YURI, PLEASE WAIT!!
TMP

WHAT CAN WE DO? WE'RE NOT ALLOWED TO ENTER THE FEAST CHAMBER!
WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST THEN?
AND THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS WILL BEHEAD PRINCE KAIL!
IF WE DON'T ACT NOW WE'LL ALL BE KILLED.
WOOSH
PRINCESS YURI?


YURI?!
?!
SHE'LL BE CUT DOWN!!
PRINCESS YURI
WHAT IS SHE GOING TO DO?!

MURMUR
MURMUR
MURMUR

THE LAW DEMANDS THAT YOU PAY WITH YOUR LIFE!
SHINK
PRINCESS YURI!
THOUGH YOU ARE PRINCE KAIL'S CONCUBINE, THIS CANNOT BE IGNORED!
PRINCESS YURI, RUN THIS WAY!
OH!
WOOSH
PRINCE KAIL!
YURI?!
MURMUR
MURMUR
WHAT'S THIS? WOMEN ARE NOT PERMITTED HERE
MURMUR
WHAT BRAZENNESS!
THIS IS AN OUTRAGE!!
MURMUR
MURMUR
MURMUR


PLEASE
I WANT TO BE ALONE WITH YOU.
WHP
COME BACK TO THE BED-CHAMBER.
PRINCE KAIL
EXCUSE ME PRINCE KAIL
WHISPR
THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS WILL BE HERE SOON.

I MISS YOU.
PLEASE DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE!

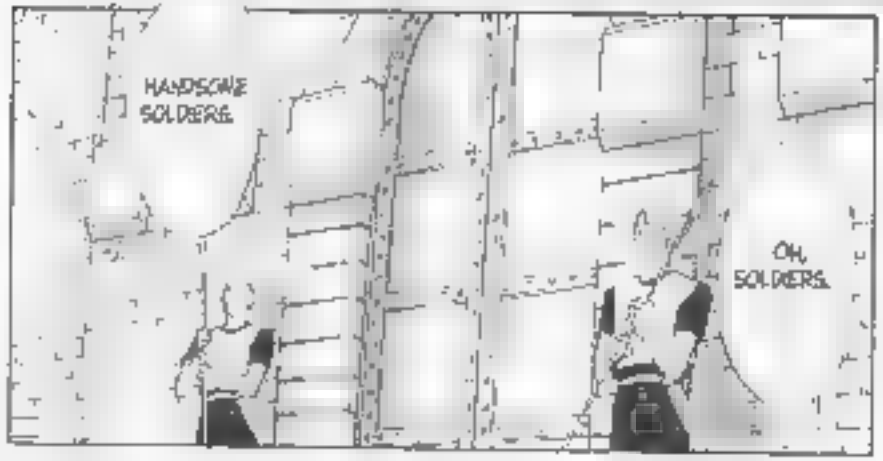
THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS IS COMING
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
CALM DOWN WE'RE JUST GOING TO OPEN THE GATES A BIT SLOWER THAN PLANNED
OPEN THEM IMMEDIATELY
LET IN THE KITTIES.
PRINCE KAIL
WELL DONE YURI

WHUP
VERY WELL, WE'LL GO. I'LL KEEP YOU NICE AND WARM UNTIL MORNING.
SO, YOU WERE LONELY? THERE. THERE.
EXCUSE ME. .
ALL IS WELL
HMPH. THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN A GOOD PLACE FOR THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS TO BEHEAD PRINCE KAIL, BUT
KLINK
THEIR BLOOD SHALL SOAK THEIR BED INSTEAD OF THIS FLOOR
GOOD-NIGHT THEN.
I ENJOYED TONIGHT'S FESTIVITIES IMMENSELY THE COMPANY WAS ENTHRALLING.
YOUR PARDON, GREAT HAKUA.

OPEN THE GATES. QUICKLY
WE HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK OF YOU.
MEN
WHAT DO YOU GIRLS WANT?

FWOOSH
THE ARMORY IS ON FIRE
F- FIRE
IT'S BEGUN!
I HOPE WE CAN TAKE THE CITY BEFORE THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS RETURNS!

YES, PRINCE
E.BAN, OPEN THE GATES.
KASH, YOU GET WORD TO OUR MEN OUTSIDE.
KIK-KURI
SET FIRE TO THE ARMORIES.
YES, PRINCE
YES, PRINCE.


HANDSOME SOLDIERS.
OH, SOLDIERS.

IF YOU LOVE YOUR LIFE, KEEP QUIET
GENERAL DANA, I PRESUME?
THE EASTERN GATE WILL SOON BE UNDER OUR CONTROL
WE'VE CAPTURED ALL THE SENIOR OFFICIALS!
THE CITY HALL IS IN OUR HANDS.
OUR SOLDIERS ARE FLOODING THROUGH THE WESTERN GATE!

KLOP KLOP KLOP KLOP
HURRY!
IF ANY MAN DELAYS US, HIS SEVERED HEAD WILL ADORN THE WALLS OF MALATIA!

TOMP
HUH?!
"HAH"
YOU'RE MITANNI SOLDIERS!
GET HOLD OF YOURSELVES!
WHOA!
HELP!

EVERYONE ELSE IS TOO BUSY TO WORRY ABOUT THIS, SO I'LL DO IT.
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THERE'S REALLY A TALISMAN THAT CAN CONTROL PEOPLE'S MINDS. BUT IF IT EXISTS, I DON'T WANT THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS OR QUEEN NAKIA TO GET IT
WAIT, YURI! SOMEONE ELSE CAN—
YURI!!
PRINCE KAIL I HAVE NEWS!
WHAT IS IT?
THE DRAGON'S EYE IS IN THE TREASURE ROOM.
WE CAN'T LET THEM FIND IT!
THE DRAGON'S EYE?
I'LL GO! I'LL FIND IT
BUT EVEN HADI AND HER SISTERS ARE HELPING.
MITANNI FOOT SOLDIERS ARE LOOTING THE TREASURE ROOM!
PRINCE KAIL!
LET THEM.
PRINCE KAIL, NO!
YOU ARE MY PRINCESS
BUT SHOULDN'T I...
BE DOING SOMETHING?
YOUR PLACE IS AT MY SIDE.

I HOPE YURI IS ALL RIGHT
I'M SORRY, MY PRINCE!
YES, BUT...
SOMEONE CUT THE BOW-STRINGS OF THE SOLDIERS WHO WERE ASSIGNED TO TAKE IT
HMM. AND THE MESSENGER GOT THROUGH.
BECAUSE SOMEONE KILLED OUR SOLDIERS, RIGHT?
THERE'S A TRAITOR AMONG US.
KLAK KLAK KLAK
THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS!
PRINCE KAIL!
HE'S RETURNED!
HE ENTERED THROUGH THE EASTERN GATE.
I WAS JUST TOLD THAT THE EASTERN GATE WOULD SOON BE IN OUR HANDS!
WHAT?!

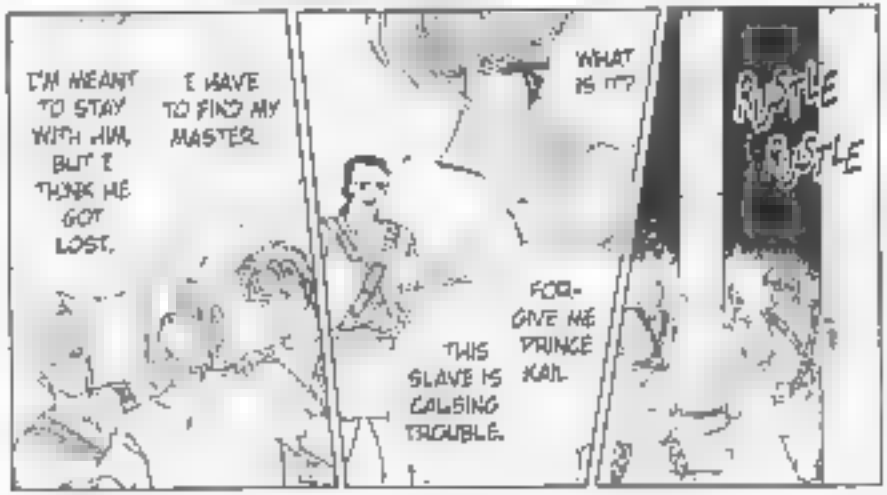
YOU'RE...
...SHALNA?
PRINCESS YURI?
WHY WOULD A PRIEST COME HERE?
ROAR
HURRY UP!
TAKE ALL THE TREASURE YOU CAN CARRY!
IT'S HOPE-LESS.
DAMN IT.
HOW WILL I EVER FIND A LITTLE BOY IN ALL THIS?
KLANK
GASP!

KLUNK
THAT'S IT!
THE DRAGON'S EYE!
I'M LOOKING FOR SOMETHING IMPORTANT
ME?
WELL, SINCE YOU'RE HERE, WILL YOU HELP ME?
HEH
WHAT OF YOU?
WHY IS A CONCUBINE PLUNDERING THE CITY'S TREASURE HOUSE?
IT'S GOTTA BE HERE SOMEWHERE.
A GOLD-INLAID IVORY BOX ABOUT THIS BIG.
WHAT IS IT?
TWO SEARCHERS ARE BETTER THAN ONE
SOOS
I'LL FIND THAT DRAGON'S EYE NO MATTER WHAT!
WHEAT?

WHAT?!
PRINCE KAIL.
I'VE SEEN THAT MAN BEFORE. I SAW HIM IN QUEEN NAKIA'S TEMPLE.

HE'S HERE?
QUEEN NAKIA'S MINION?
URH?!
UH... YES, SIR.
UM.
LORD URH. YOUR HIGHNESS.
THE PRIEST OF THE TEMPLE OF THE SUN.
YOU THERE!
PRINCE KAIL HAS A QUESTION FOR YOU.
WHAT'S YOUR MASTER'S NAME, MAN?
HUH?
YES. YOUR HIGHNESS?

THE CITY IS ALMOST ENTIRELY UNDER OUR CONTROL.
HE CAN'T GET THROUGH THE EASTERN COURTYARD!
WHERE IS THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS?
NO MY PRINCE
HAVE YOU FOUND YURI YET?
WE DON'T KNOW WHO THE TRAITOR IS! SHE MAY BE IN DANGER!


I'M MEANT TO STAY WITH HIM, BUT I THINK HE GOT LOST.
I HAVE TO FIND MY MASTER.
WHAT IS IT?
THIS SLAVE IS CAUSING TROUBLE.
FORGIVE ME PRINCE KAIL.
RUSTLE RUSTLE

I'M SO HAPPY I FOUND THE DRAGON'S EYE!
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR IT
YES.
SO HAVE I
HEH
SWAPP
WHAT?
URIA, SHALMA ?!
HIS NAME IS URIA SHALMA. DO YOU KNOW HIM?
HE AC- COMPANIES YOUR ARM AS A PRIEST
THAT PRIEST IS URIA!!

I'LL LET THOSE SOLDIERS HAVE YOU INSTEAD
I WANTED TO TAKE YOUR HEAD BACK TO THE QUEEN, BUT
THIS WAY!
HEY IT'S A WOMAN!
SHE'S JUST A CHILD
HER ALL THE BETTER.

KLANK
HEY!
THERE'S MORE IN HERE!
QUEEN NAKIA WANTS IT
I JOINED THIS EXPEDITION JUST TO RETRIEVE IT

A HITTITE PRIEST?
THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS.
THAT IS.
ULP

A
A
A
A
H!
KLAK
KLAK
OUT OF MY WAY!
OUT OF MY WAY!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
KLUNK
KLAK

I HAD THE DRAGON'S EYE.
IN MY HANDS!!
ABANDON MALATIA!
WE'RE LEAVING THIS PLACE
ANTANNI SOLDIERS, WITH-DRAW!
GO AND TELL KARL MURSILL
I DON'T WANT TO KILL A PRIEST
WHUp
SWIK
THAT HE CAN HAVE MALATIA.
BUT HE'LL PAY FOR IT WITH HIS HEAD.

PRINCE KAL MALATIA HAS FALLEN!
THE CITY IS OURS!
FIND HER.
WHERE'S YUGA?

KLAK
LET'S BE ON OUR WAY!
KLAK
KLAK

THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS HAS ORDERED THE RETREAT.
GOOD! WITH ALL THIS TREASURE, WE WON'T NEED TO WORK WHEN WE GET BACK TO WASSUGANDI.
AND MEN WILL PAY A FORTUNE FOR THE MAIDEN, TOO.
SHE'S THE BEST PIECE OF PLUNDER WE'VE GOT

MALATIA IS OURS!

WE'VE WON!

THE MITANNI ARE FLEEING!

MALATIA IS OURS!

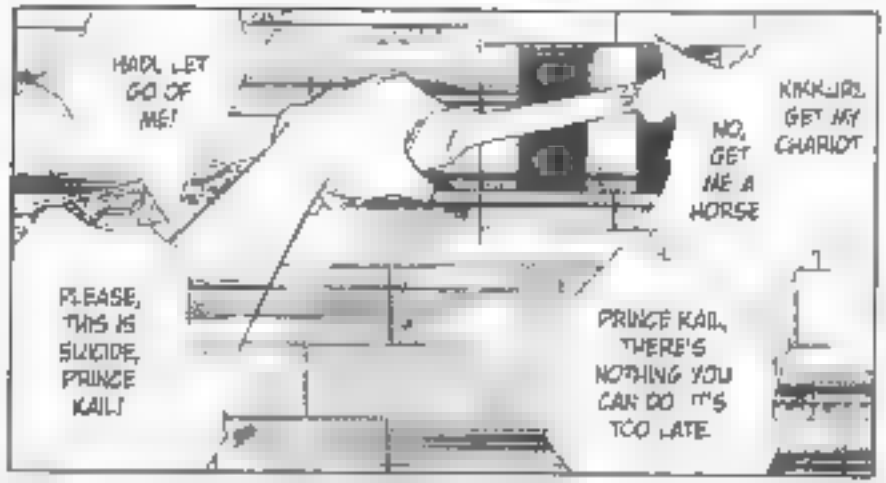
RAAAAAAAH

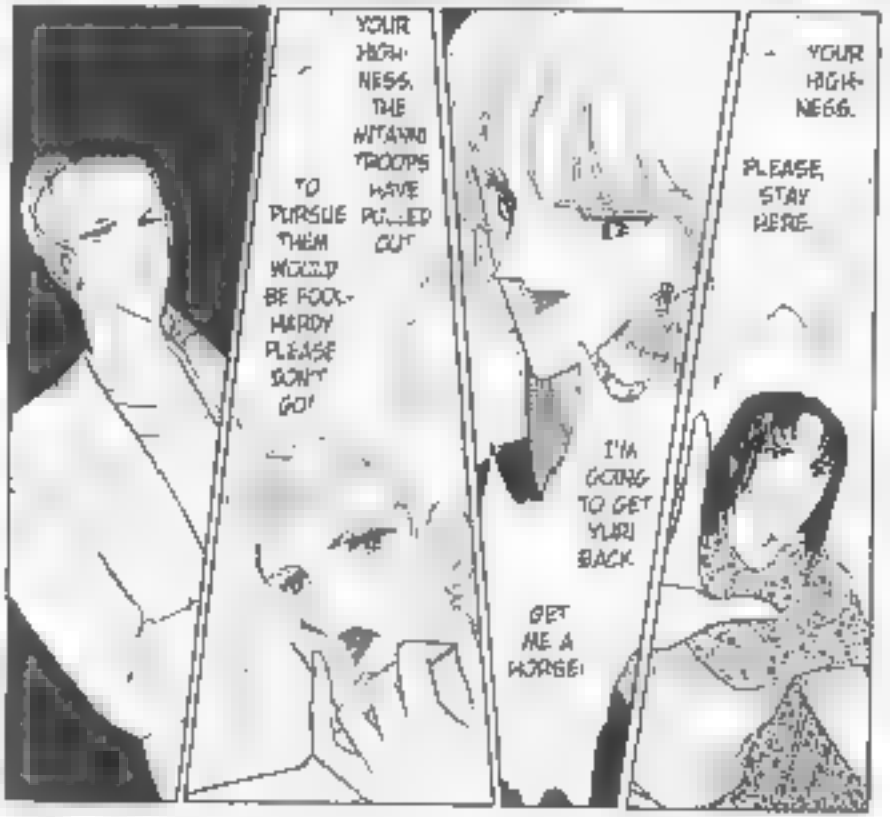
HURRAY

WHAT?
THE MITANNI HAVE YURI?
YURI!!!
WE SAW HER BEING TAKEN AWAY ON A CART THROUGH THE EASTERN GATE.
YES, YOUR HIGHNESS. SHE WAS TAKEN BY MITANNI LOOTERS.
ARE YOU SURE?

EVERY-THING WENT EXACTLY AS PRINCE KAR PLANNED.
AMAZING.
MALATIA FELL IN ONLY THREE DAYS.
HADI, LOOK!
IT'S PRINCESS YURI!
SHE'S BEEN CAPTURED BY MITANNI SOLDIERS!

YURI IS MY LOVE!!
SHE'S MY PRINCESS!
LET ME GO!
I'M GOING TO GET HER BACK!

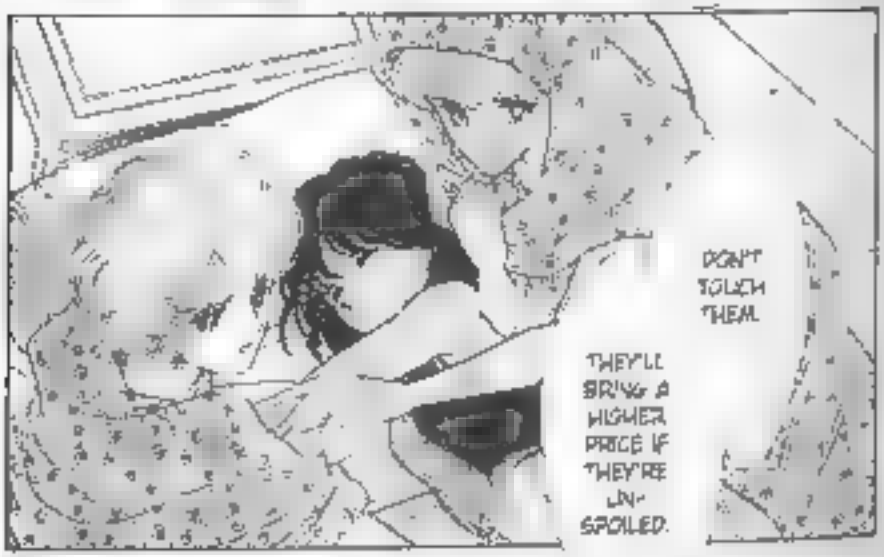

HADL LET GO OF ME!
NO, GET ME A HORSE
KIKKURI, GET MY CHARIOT
PLEASE, THIS IS SUICIDE, PRINCE KAIL!
PRINCE KAIL, THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO IT'S TOO LATE

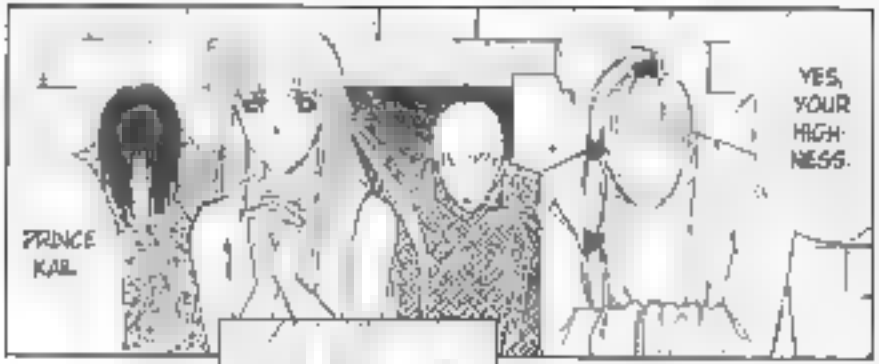

YOUR HIGHNESS, THE MITAMA TROOPS HAVE PULLED OUT
TO PURSUE THEM WOULD BE FOOLHARDY PLEASE DON'T GO!
YOUR HIGHNESS.
PLEASE, STAY HERE.
I'M GOING TO GET YURI BACK.
GET ME A HORSE!

RELEASE ME
RUSAFA
AND RESTORE ORDER TO THE CITY
GATHER ALL THE SENIOR OFFICIALS WE'VE CAPTURED INTO ONE ROOM.

I KNOW YOU CARE DEEPLY FOR PRINCESS YURI.
PRINCE KAIL
BUT WHAT OF THE 5,000 SOLDIERS UNDER YOUR COMMAND?
PLEASE DO NOT FORGET
YOU ARE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARMIES OF THE HITTITE EMPIRE RIGHT NOW.

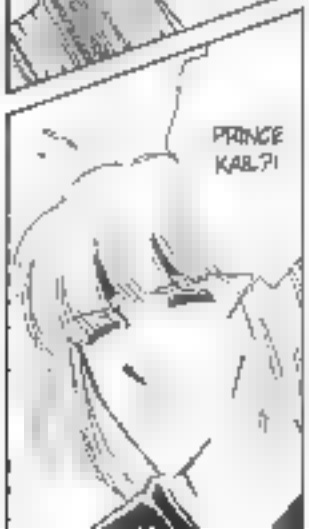
EXCEL-LENT
A COUPLE OF STRAYS FROM THE HITTITE ARMY
WE HAVE NEW PRICES.


THEY'LL BRING A HIGHER PRICE IF THEY'RE UN-SPOILED.
DON'T TOUCH THEM.


PRINCE KAIL
YES, YOUR HIGH-NESS.

YOUR HIGH-NESS.
THEY'LL PROTECT HER WITH THEIR LIVES. SO PLEASE..
I SENT MY SISTERS AFTER PRINCESS YURI
THANK YOU, HADI.
GET ME CLEAN CLOTHES. I MUST TRANS-FER THE GOVERNANCE OF THE CITY.

SWIP


PRINCE KAIL?!

HE WILL SURELY KILL HER
BUT IF THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS DISCOVERS SHE'S MY PRINCESS..
IF HE LEARNS THAT SHE IS THE ISHTAR OF THE HITTITE EMPIRE

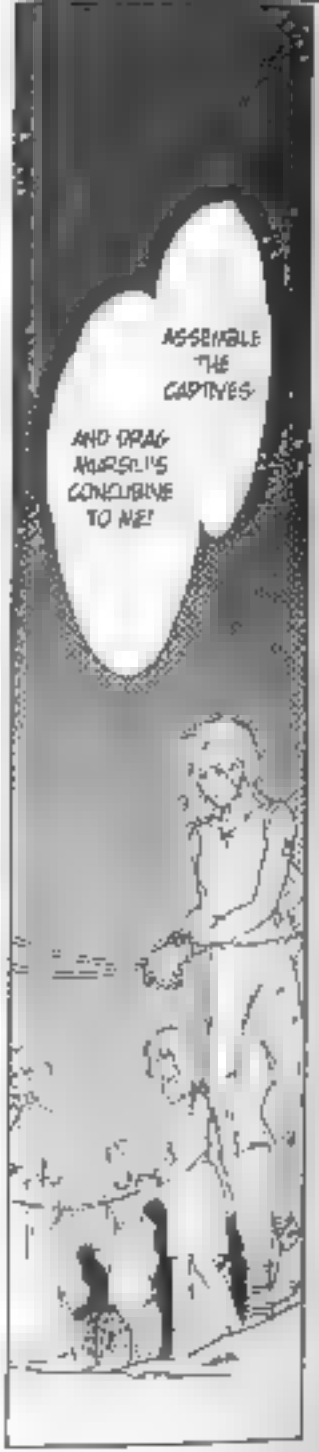
WOMEN CAPTURED IN WAR ARE OFTEN SOLD AS SLAVES.
WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING FOR PRINCESS YURI.
PRINCE KAIL I DON'T WANT TO UPSET YOU, BUT
I KNOW.
IF SHE LIVES, I WILL FIND HER AND BRING HER BACK.
BUT EVEN IF SHE DOES BECOME ANOTHER MAN'S SLAVE...

SEND A MESSAGE TO MY FATHER!
KIKKURI
WE'RE PUSHING ON TO WASSUGANI FROM HERE!
YES, YOUR HIGH-NESS.
CHA
KLANK

WHAT?
THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS WISHES TO SEE THESE WOMEN.

BUT IF WE DON'T OBEY HE'LL PUT US ON THE FRONT LINES.
HOW SHOULD I KNOW WHY?
WHY? HE NEVER TOLD US NOT TO TAKE THEM!

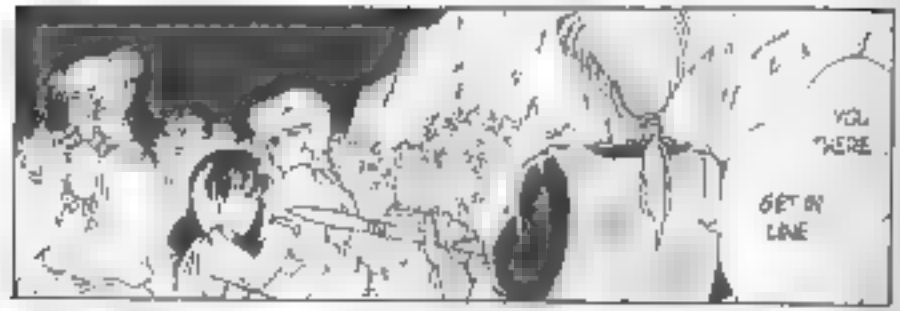
YES.
HE MUST BE LOOKING FOR PRINCESS YURI.
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?


ASSEMBLE THE CAPTIVES
AND DRAG MURSIL'S CONCUBINE TO ME!

PRINCE OF DARKNESS.
I HEARD A STRANGE RUMOR.

THAT IS WHAT THE CAPTIVE WOMEN ARE SAYING
MURSIL'S CONCUBINE?
AND THERE IS A RUMOR THAT KAIL MURSIL'S CONCUBINE IS AMONG THEM.
OUR SOLDIERS HAVE CAPTURED MANY MALATIAN AND HITTITE WOMEN.

THIS IS MOST INTERESTING IF TRUE
THAT WOMAN IS SAID TO BE THE INCARNATION OF ISHTAR.


YOU THERE
GET IN LINE

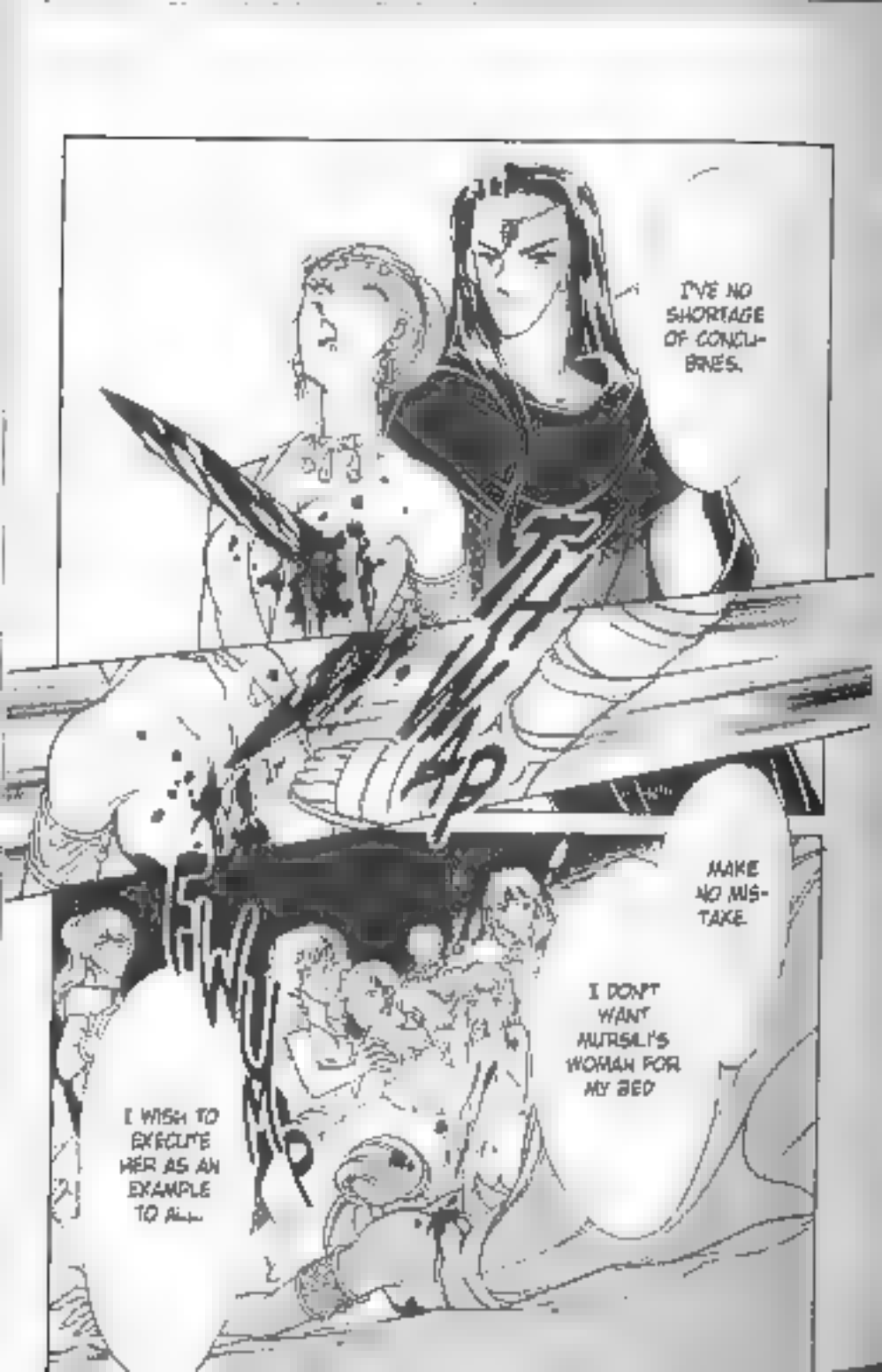
POINT HER OUT TO US!
WE KNOW THAT THE CONCUBINE OF PRINCE KAIL MURSIL OF THE HITTITES IS AMONG YOU.
HUSH! THE MITANNI SOLDIERS WILL HEAR YOU!!
WHERE ARE WE? WHERE'S THE DRAGON'S EYE?
WHAT?
RYU? SHALA?
PRINCESS YURI
LINE

WE'RE IN
THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS'S CAMP?
PRINCE MATTIWAZA COMMANDS YOU. YOU MUST OBEY!

RYU!?
SHE'LL STAND OUT IF SHE REMAINS DRESSED IN THE PURPLE OF ROYALTY I'M GOING TO TRADE CLOTHES WITH HER!
SHALA, UNDRESS PRINCESS YURI.

MURMUR
MURMUR
MURMUR

TAKE ME AS YOUR CONCU-BINE.
WHAT ABOUT ME YOUR HIGH-NESS?
I AM THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN OF MY VILLAGE
PRINCE, TAKE ME INSTEAD OF ANOTHER MAN'S CONCU-BINE!
NO.
DON'T.
YOUR HIGH-NESS...
THE PRINCE OF DARK-NESS?
FOR THAT HE IS CALLED THE BLOODY PRINCE OF DARKNESS.
MY APOLOGY. YOUR HIGH-NESS
HAVEN'T YOU FOUND HER YET?


I'VE NO SHORTAGE OF CONCUBINES.
I WISH TO EXECUTE HER AS AN EXAMPLE TO A...
I DON'T WANT MURSALI'S WOMAN FOR MY BED
MAKE NO MISTAKE.

AAGH!!
AAH!

DON'T WORRY RYLA WE'LL BE ALL RIGHT
OH, NO— RYLA!
HUSH, PRINCESS YARA.
BUT IF HE FINDS YOU, HE WILL KILL YOU. PLEASE KEEP QUIET
HMM.
YOUR HIGHNESS.
THIS SO-CALLED ISHTAR MUST BE AMONG THESE WOMEN.
BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP
RYLA!
BA-BUMP
YES, SIR.
BRING FORTH ALL THE WOMEN ATTIRED IN FINE RAIMENT!
THE BLOODY PRINCE OF DARKNESS.
BEEE!
PLEASE. MERCY!
NO!
WAP
YOU, TOO. STEP FORWARD
I WILL KILL THIS "GODDESS" RIGHT BEFORE YOUR EYES.
AND SEND HER CARCASS TO MURSIL AND HIS MEN.
HE MAY BE A PRINCE BUT HE'S NOTHING LIKE PRINCE KAIL

PHEW
TMP

WAP
A PURPLE DRESS?
YOU WEAR EXPENSIVE CLOTH DYED WITH MUREX FROM CANAAN.
FEW CAN AFFORD SUCH FINERY
SHALA
BOSH

IT'S VERY FAINT BUT.
YOUR HAIR SMELLS OF FRANKIN-CENSE
YOU MUST HAVE GOTTEN THIS LINGERING SCENT FROM A PRINCE.

OH!
BUT YOUR HIGH-NESS.
THAT IS MY YOUNGER SISTER.
SHE'S JUST A PLEASE GIRL
WE WERE TRAVELING WITH THE HITTITE ARMY AS COOKS WHEN YOUR SOLDIERS CAPTURED US.
PLEASE LET HER GO!

I DON'T BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE ISHTAR.
AND I WILL EXECUTE YOU TO SHOW THE HITTITE SOLDIERS THAT THEY WERE DECEIVED.
OH!!
KAIL MURSILI'S WOMAN.
YOU MUST BE.
I STOPPED NOTICING IT BECAUSE I WAS ALWAYS WITH HIM.
PRINCE KAIL'S SCENT?
BUT THE PRINCE OF THE HITTITES?
AND WHO COULD AFFORD SO RARE A BALM IN A PLACE LIKE THIS.

HELP ME, PRINCE KAL

KLAK

KLAK

KLAK

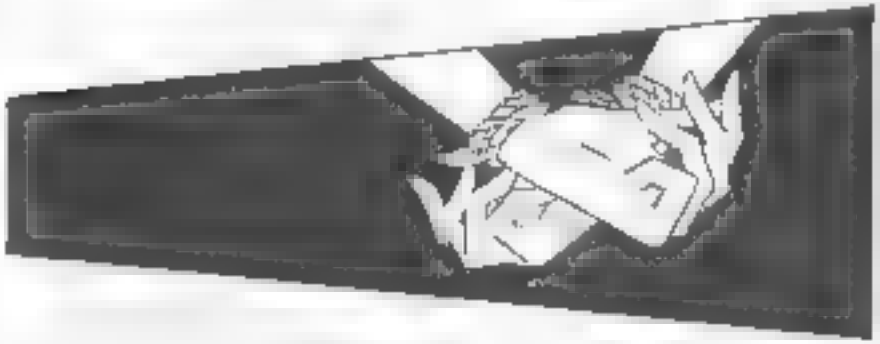
KLAK

THIS TIME AND PLACE IS STILL SO STRANGE TO ME

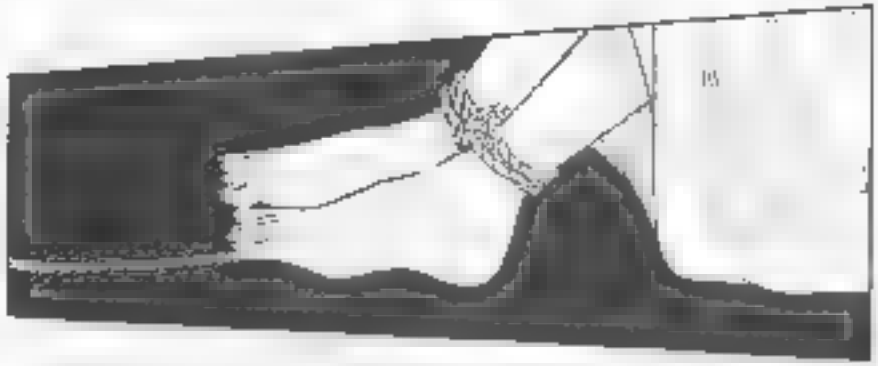
I'M FRIGHTENED AND LONELY!

I WANT TO GO BACK TO PRINCE KAL

I'M SO SCARED



PLEASE SAVE ME..



PRINCE KAL!

HIT
WA.
WATER.
PLEASE.
KEEP
THAT
LINE IN
ORDER.
GET AWAY
FROM HIM.
KEEP
WALKING.

WE HAVEN'T
EATEN OR DRUNK
ANYTHING SINCE
WE LEFT MALATIA!
IT'S NO WONDER
HE CAN'T WALK
ANYMORE!
STOP
IT

PRINCE OF
DARKNESS.
DON'T
BOTHER.
KILL
HIM.

I
I'M
OKAY I
JUST
STUMBLED
OVER
SOMETHING
SHALA!
OH.
HUMP
SHALA!
YOU!
THERE!
GET
UP!

I'M SURPRISED YOU CAN STILL WORRY ABOUT OTHERS.
KLAK
HE COULD'VE KEPT GOING IF YOU HAD.
IT WOULDN'T HAVE HURT JUST TO GIVE HIM A LITTLE WATER.
KLAK
KLAK
HOW HORRIBLE!
WHAT A CRUEL THING YOU DID!

?!
THERE WAS THE PLACE OF YOUR EXECUTION.
WHY?

WASSU-SAAND.

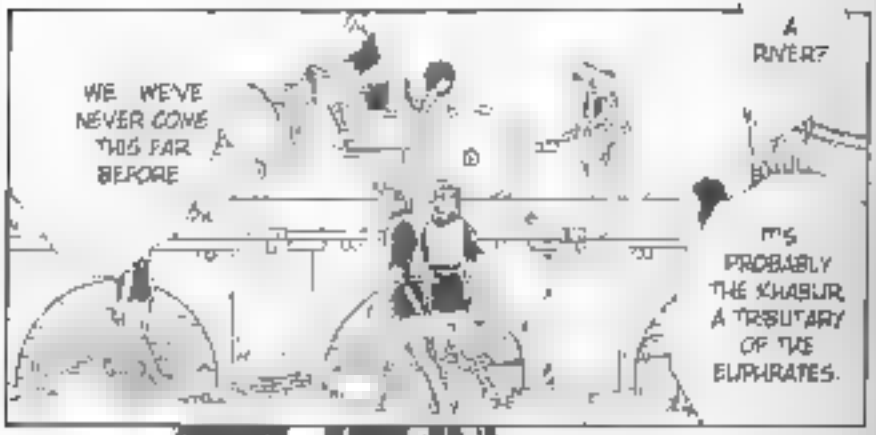
KILL HIM!
THOSE WHO CAN'T STAND THE TREX WILL NEVER BE FIT FOR HARD WORK.
THEY'RE ONLY SLAVES.

YES. YOUR HIGH-NESS.
BUT

AAAH
CHUNK
AAAGH!

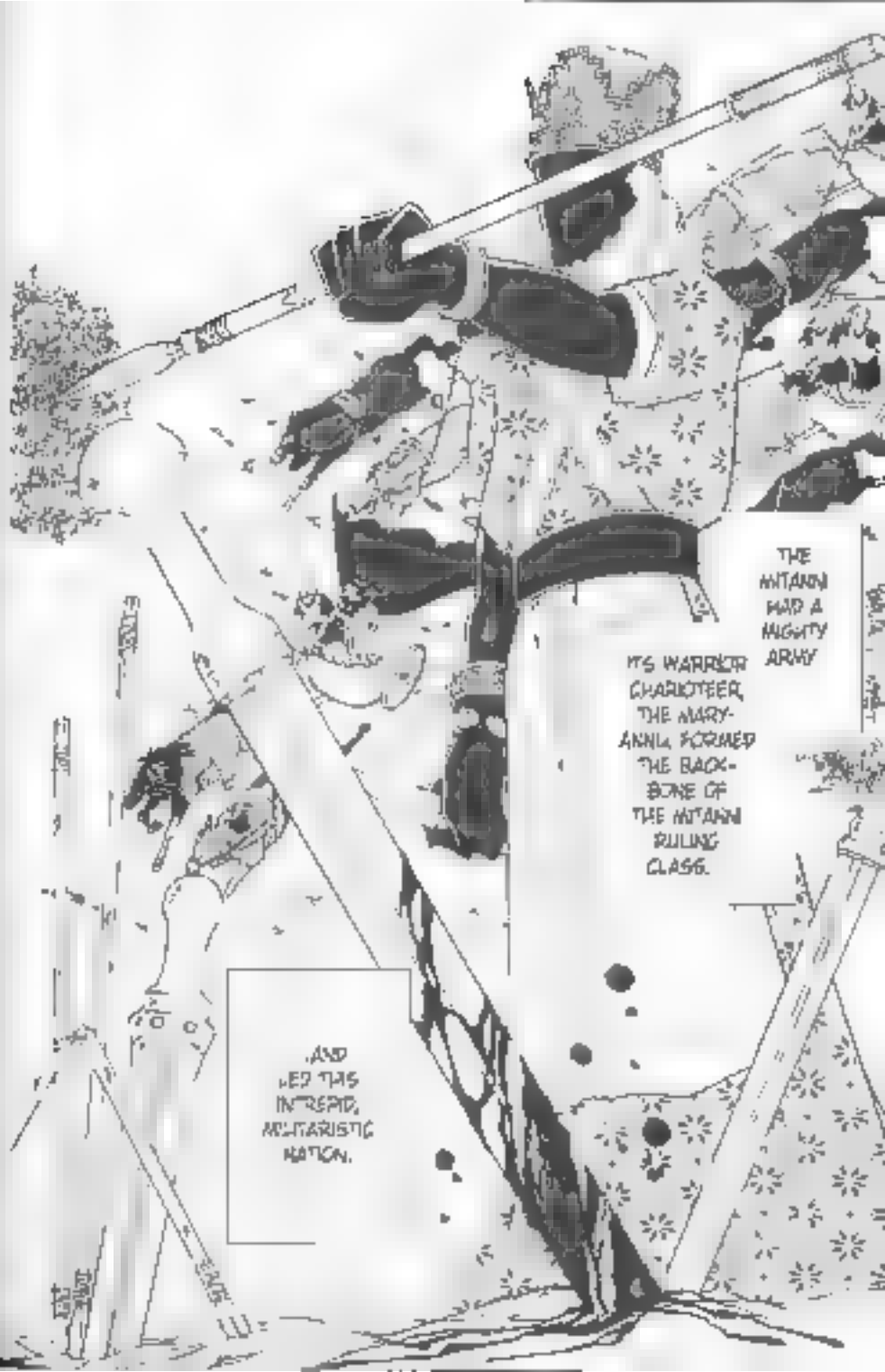
WASSUGANNI

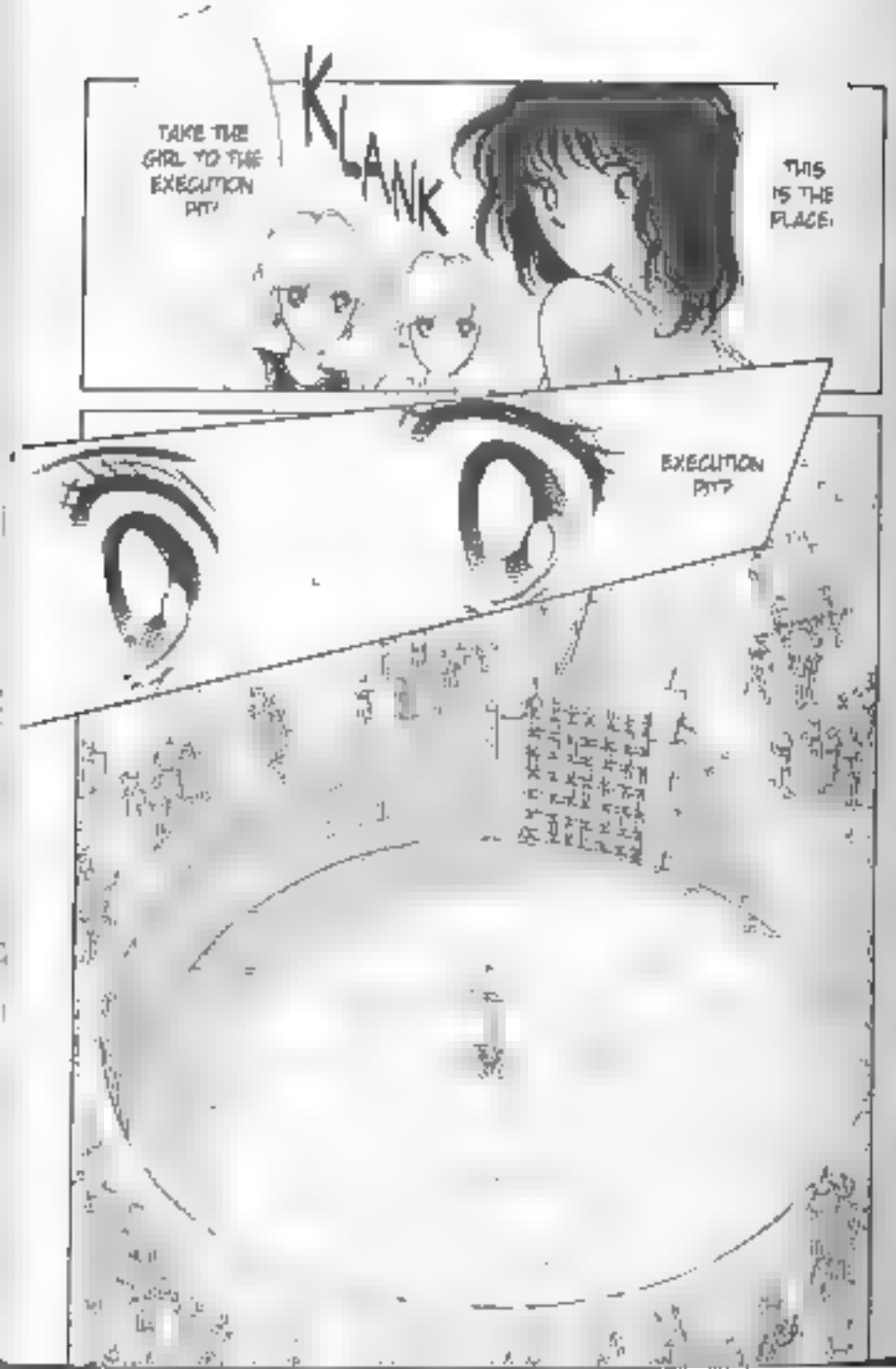
THE CAPITAL OF THE MITANNI KINGDOM, ONE OF THE THREE MOST POWERFUL STATES OF THE ANCIENT MIDDLE EAST


WE WE'VE NEVER COME THIS FAR BEFORE
A RIVER?
IT'S PROBABLY THE KHABUR A TRIBUTARY OF THE EUPHRATES.

I'M SO FAR FROM PRINCE KAL
GULP
THE EUPHRATES?
I THINK I LEARNED ABOUT IT IN HISTORY CLASS.

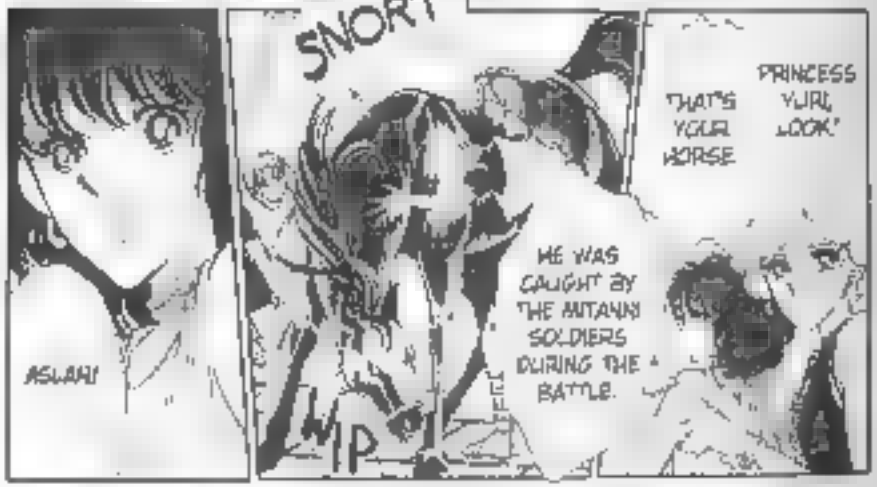
Hoofbeats


THE MITANNI HAD A MIGHTY ARMY
IT'S WARRIOR CHARIOTEER, THE MARYANNU FORMED THE BACKBONE OF THE MITANNI RULING CLASS.
AND LED THIS INTREPID, MILITARISTIC NATION.


KLANK
TAKE THE GIRL TO THE EXECUTION PIT!
THIS IS THE PLACE!
EXECUTION PIT?

THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS HAS RETURNED!
I HEARD HE BROUGHT THE HITTITE'S ISHTAR BACK WITH HIM.
KLRK
KLRK
KLRK
SHE'S ONLY A CHILD DON'T THE HITTITES HAVE ANY GROWN WOMEN?
THAT SKINNY GIRL?
IS THAT ISHTAR?
DON'T DESPAIR
PRINCESS YURI YOU'LL BE ALRIGHT
IT WON'T TAKE LONG FOR THE ASSYRIANS TO CONQUER ANATOLIA, EH?
WHAT FOOLISHNESS!
HEE HEE
HEE
HEE
THEY WORSHIP THAT LITTLE GIRL AS A GODDESS?

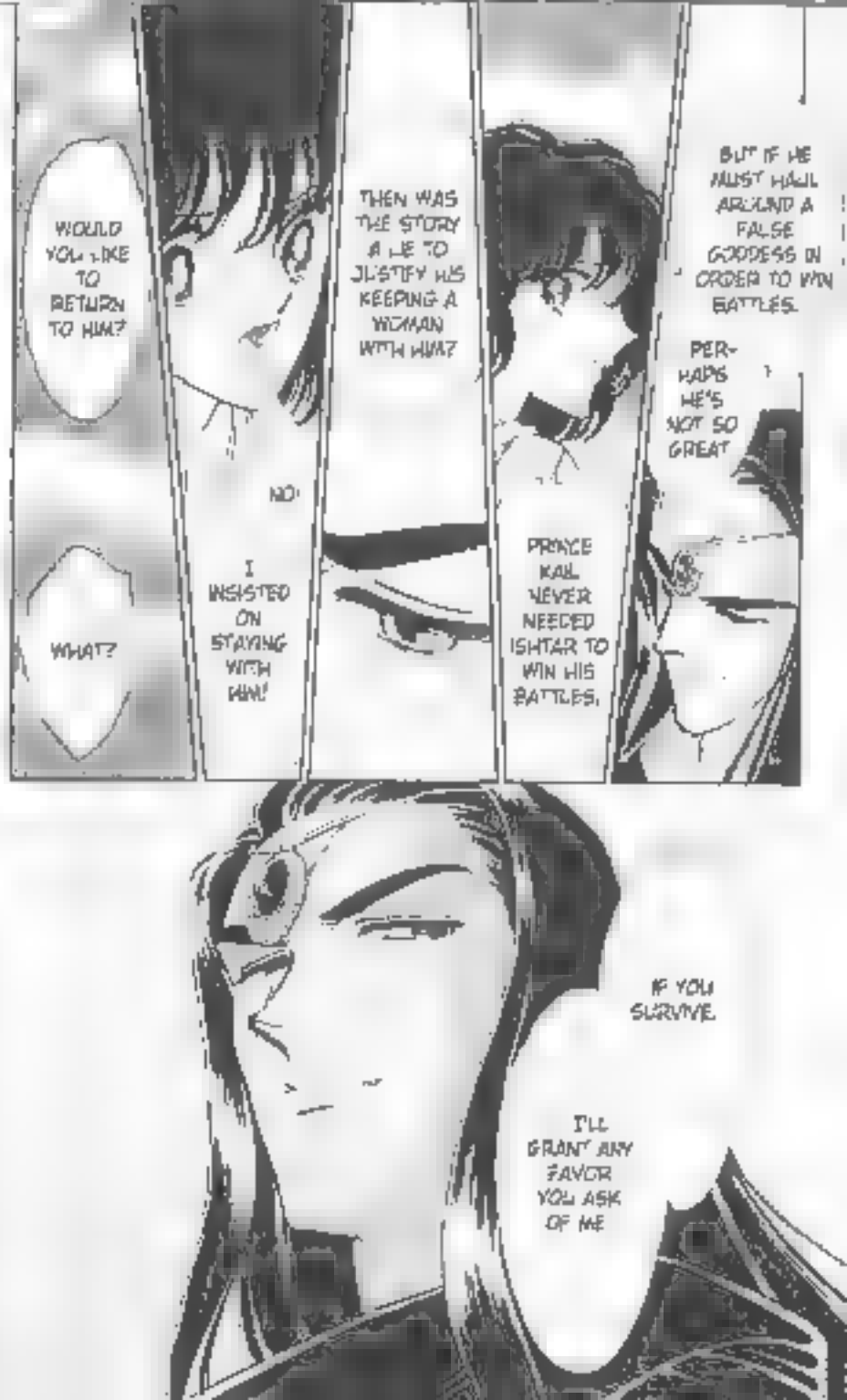
THE WOMEN HAVE ALREADY BEEN GIVEN TO THE SOLDIERS WHO CAPTURED THEM.
WITH THE HORSES AND CAMELS?


SNORT
ASLAN!
HE WAS CAUGHT BY THE MITANNI SOLDIERS DURING THE BATTLE.
THAT'S YOUR HORSE
PRINCESS YURI, LOOK!

A GREAT WARRIOR SUCH AS HE COULD HAVE ANY BEAUTY HE DESIRED.
KAL MURSIL HAS PECULIAR TASTE IN WOMEN.

WHEN THESE SLAVES REALIZE THE FATE THAT AWAITS THEM, THEY'LL ENVY YOU.
PRINCE OF DARKNESS.
BE GRATEFUL THAT I'M ALLOWING YOU A QUICK DEATH.
YURI, NO!
PRINCESS YURI!
!!
LOOK THERE THEY'LL ALL BE AUCTIONED OFF AFTER YOUR EXECUTION.

PRINCE KAIL IS NOT A LIAR!
BUT IF YOU'RE NURSLING LIE ABOUT ISHTAR
WILL BE REVEALED TO THE WORLD
I'LL BELIEVE YOU IF YOU'RE STILL ALIVE AFTER THIS.


WOULD YOU LIKE TO RETURN TO HIM?
WHAT?
NO!
I INSISTED ON STAYING WITH HIM!
THEN WAS THE STORY A LIE TO JUSTIFY HIS KEEPING A WOMAN WITH HIM?
PRINCE KAIL NEVER NEEDED ISHTAR TO WIN HIS BATTLES.
BUT IF HE MUST HAUL AROUND A FALSE GODDESS IN ORDER TO WIN BATTLES.
PERHAPS HE'S NOT SO GREAT
IF YOU SURVIVE
I'LL GRANT ANY FAVOR YOU ASK OF ME

HOW DARE HE CALL PRINCE KAL A LIAR
I CAN'T DIE HERE. I HAVE TO GET BACK TO PRINCE KAL
I CAN'T
THUMP
AH HA HA HA HA

LET THE TRUTH BE REVEALED!
WHAT CHEEK THIS GIRL HAS TO CLAIM THAT SHE IS THE GODDESS ISHTAR!
HA
KILL HER!!
KILL THE LITTLE HUSSY!!
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

RRR
I CAN'T DIE NOW!!
A--
HE HASN'T EATEN FOR TEN DAYS.
BUT LIONS ARE SACRED ANIMALS THAT SERVE ISHTAR.
IF YOU ARE REALLY ISHTAR, HE WON'T EAT YOU.

GRRR
GRRRR
A LION !!

ASLAN!
A GAWKY WAIF LIKE YOU COULD NEVER HOPE TO IMPERSONATE HER.
ISHTAR IS A REGAL DEITY ACCOMPANIED BY THE GODDESSES NINATTA AND KULITTA.
ASLAN
THUD

ASLAN!
THUMP
AAAH!
THE BEAST IS MAD! LOOK OUT!
ASLAN!
TARRUMP
TARRUMP
TARRUMP

SHIT!
SHALA!
WHSAK
THROW THOSE TWO IN THE PIT!
PRINCE OF DARKNESS, THE GIRL IS GETTING AWAY!
WUMP
BEEP!

AAAH!!

PRINCESS YURI?!
GR
AR
R
R
R
R

THAT GIRL
SKEWERED THE LION!
WHO IS SHE?
THE GIRL
PRINCESS YURI!

GRRRR
ROWRR!!

SHE MARCHES UNDER THE SKY AT DAWN.
HOORAY
HER COMPANIONS WERE THE TWIN GODDESSES, NINATTA AND KULITTA AND A LION.
ISHTAR WAS [redacted] OF LOVE, FERTILITY AND WAR.
RAAA

HOORAY
LONG LIVE PRINCESS YURI!
AS WE BELIEVED PRINCESS YURI IS TRULY ISHTAR
HAIL ISHTAR!
SHE MUST BE ISHTAR.
HOW COULD A LITTLE GIRL LIKE THAT SLAY A LION?
HOORAY
HOORAY
CEASE!
LET THEM CHEER! THE MESOPOTAMIANS WORSHIPPED HER LONG BEFORE THE HITTITES.
MITANNI MUST NOT ACCLAIM THE WAR GODDESS OF THE HITTITES!
MY EFFORTS TO DISCREDIT THIS LITTLE ISHTAR SEEM TO HAVE ONLY ENHANCED HER REPUTATION.
AND OUR PEOPLE REVERE COURAGE. IF YOU TRY TO SILENCE THEM NOW, THEY MAY REBEL
HOORAY
PRINCE OF DARKNESS.'

ISHTAR MARCHES UNDER THE SKY AT DAWN.
ACCOMPANIED BY THE TWIN GODDESSES. NIN'ITA AND KUL'ITA.
AND A LION.

THIS IS WONDERFUL. WE CAN GO HOME.
MY WISH IS..
THAT YOU IMPROVE THE TREATMENT OF YOUR PRISONERS.
!!
YOU PROMISED THAT IF I SURVIVED..
YOU WOULD GRANT ME ANY WISH, RIGHT?
YES, YOUR HIGHNESS.
AND KILL HER BEFORE SHE CROSSES THE BORDER! MAKE SURE THERE ARE NO WITNESSES.
SET HER FREE
IF I BROKE MY PROMISE BEFORE THE PEOPLE, THE IMAGE OF THE ROYAL FAMILY WOULD SUFFER.
YOUR HIGHNESS!
YOUR HIGHNESS, IF YOU LET HER GO, THE DIGNITY OF THE MIKADO WILL BE
VERY WELL. I'LL GO TO HIM.
YOUR WISH WAS TO RETURN TO YOUR REAL RIGHT?

YOU MEN NEVER KNOW WHEN YOU'LL GO TO WAR AND BE TAKEN PRISONER!!
AND FOR YOU WOMEN, IT COULD BE YOUR HUSBAND YOUR SON, OR YOUR LOVER!!
ISN'T IT WISER TO COME TO SOME MUTUAL AGREEMENT REGARDING THE TREATMENT OF PRISONERS?
HAIL ISHTAR!
HAIL PRINCESS YURI!
THANK YOU, PRINCESS YURI.
SHE SPEAKS WISELY
WE SUFFER TERRIBLY WHEN OUR MEN MARCH TO WAR AND DON'T RETURN!
THAT WOULD BE A GREAT RELIEF
PRINCE OF DARKNESS

AND PROVIDE THEM WITH PROPER FOOD AND SHELTER!?
IF YOU HAVE TO USE THEM FOR LABOR GIVE THEM JOBS MEANT FOR HUMANS!!
STOP TREATING YOUR CAPTIVES LIKE ANIMALS.
THAT'S HOW PRINCE KAIL TREATS HIS PRISONERS OF WAR

I DIDN'T WANT TO BE MURDERED OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE
I DON'T THINK.
YOU'D LET ME MAKE IT BACK ALIVE.
BUT HERE, EVERYONE WILL BE WATCHING TO SEE WHETHER OR NOT YOU HONOR YOUR WORD
IT WON'T BE EASY FOR YOU TO RENEGE
WHIP
THAT INSOLENT LITTLE VIXEN!!

I MADE A PROMISE
AND I WILL DO AS YOU ASK
WHY
WHY DIDN'T YOU ASK FOR YOUR FREEDOM?
LONG LIVE THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS!
HAIL ISHTAR!
HOORAY
HOORAY

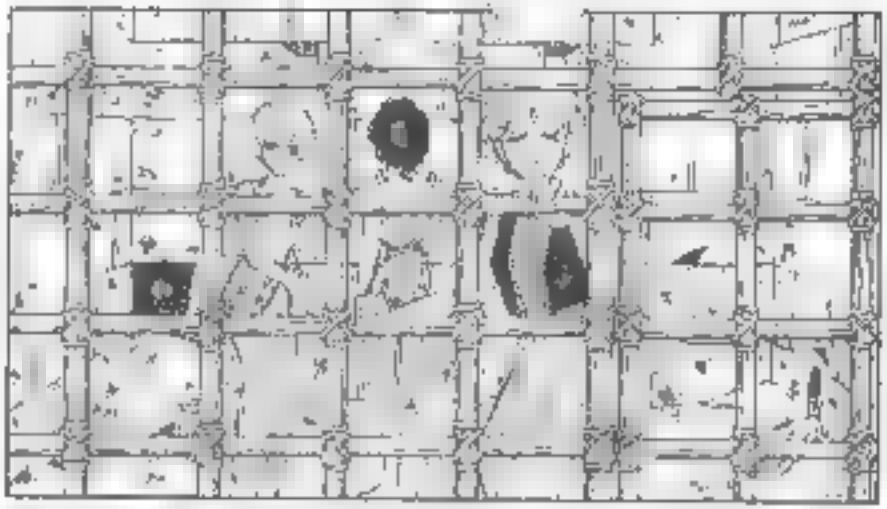
WHAT SHALL WE DO, YOUR HIGHNESS?
OUR PEOPLE NOW BELIEVE THAT SHE IS ISHTAR.
IF WE MOVE AGAINST HER THEY MAY SYMPATHIZE WITH THE HITTITES.
RA AA HA
HMM... WE MUSTN'T ACT HASTILY
PERHAPS WE CAN MAKE THE PEOPLE'S BELIEF WORK TO OUR OWN ADVANTAGE

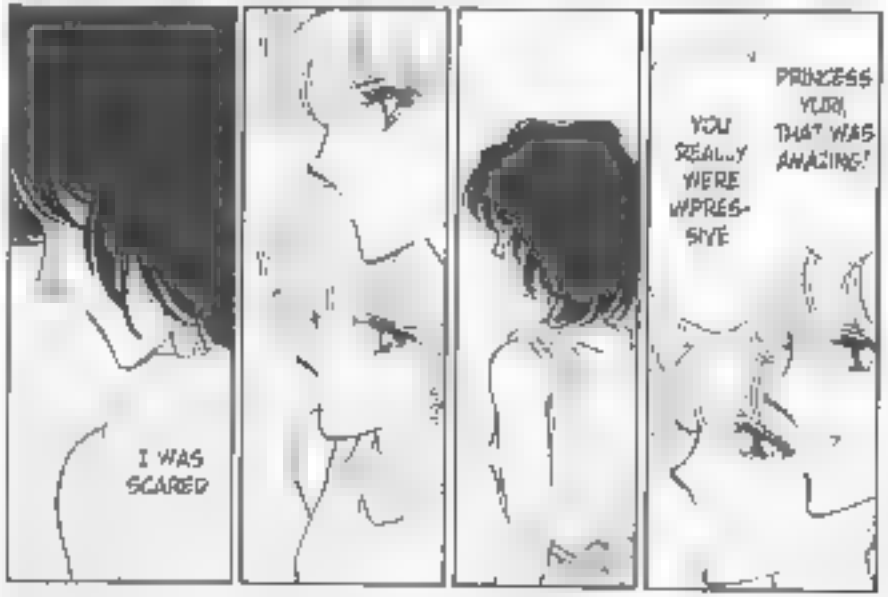
WAS IT A LITTLE GIRL'S BLUFF?

SHE'S FAR MORE ASTUTE THAN I GAVE HER CREDIT FOR!!

I DON'T CARE IF THEY TRY TO KILL ME ON THE WAY HOME. I JUST WANT TO GO BACK TO HIM.
I WANT TO GO BACK TO PRINCE KAL
I WAS SCARED TO DEATH.
WHAT I REALLY WANTED WAS TO CRY AND BEG HIM TO SEND ME BACK TO PRINCE KAL

YOU'LL STAY HERE FOR NOW
KREEK




I WAS SCARED
YOU REALLY WERE IMPRESSIVE
PRINCESS YURI, THAT WAS AMAZING!

HE CAN'T DO THAT PRINCESS YURI BELONGS TO PRINCE KAIL!
DO YOU MEAN THE PRINCE IS TAKING PRINCESS YURI AS HIS CONCUBINE?
I'M STAYING RIGHT HERE!
NO WAY! I'M NOT GOING TO HIS SERAGLIO!
SERAGLIO. ISN'T THAT LIKE A HAREM?
IF YOU PREFER TO STAY IN PRISON, SUIT YOURSELF.
THAT MUST BE WHERE MATTIWAZA'S WIVES AND CONCUBINES LIVE

WHAM
MATTIWAZA, CROWN PRINCE OF THE MITANNI, HAS SUMMONED YOU.
CONGRATULATIONS.
WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?
PLEASE COME WITH US.
HOLY ISHTAR
HOLY ISHTAR, YOU ARE.
-GOING TO LIVE IN THE PRINCE'S SERAGLIO

I WOULDN'T GO TO YOUR SERAGLIO IF MY LIFE DEPENDED ON IT!
DON'T YOU DO IT!
PRINCE KAIL WOULD HEAR THE RUMOR!
THROUGHOUT THE KNOWN WORLD? THE HITTITE EMPIRE, TOO?
WORD WILL SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE KNOWN WORLD.
DON'T SEND OUT SUCH A LIE TO PRINCE KAIL!
OF COURSE THAT'S MY MAIN OBJECTIVE
AND ALL WILL KNOW THAT ISHTAR NOW SIDES WITH THE HITTITES.
DON'T DO IT!!
IT WILL BE A TONIC TO HITTITE MORALE AND PRESTIGE

YOU HAVE NO INTENTION OF ..?
THEN WHY DO YOU WANT ME TO GO. TO THAT PLACE?
PRINCE OF DARKNESS?
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF MAKING LOVE TO YOU. ANYWAY
IF YOU LIKE IT HERE. THEN STAY
THE RUMOR THAT ISHTAR IS MINE IS ENOUGH.
I ONLY WISH.
FOR IT TO BE KNOWN THAT ISHTAR HAS COME TO LIVE IN MY SERAGLIO.

CAN'T YOU UNDERSTAND HOW I FEEL?!

WHY MUST YOU MAKE SUCH A FUSS?

I TOLD YOU I WON'T MAKE LOVE TO YOU.

WHAT SHOULD I DO? IF PRINCE KAIL HATES ME BECAUSE OF THIS, WHAT WILL I DO?

I FEEL SO HELPLESS WHEN I'M NOT WITH PRINCE KAIL.

WHO KNOWS WHAT HE WILL THINK WHEN HE HEARS THIS RUMOR.

IT'S ALL RIGHT PRINCESS YURI PRINCE KAIL WILL UNDERSTAND

NO!

PLEASE DON'T DO THAT TO ME!

KAIL MURSILI KNOWS THAT

IT'S CUSTOMARY FOR CAPTIVE WOMEN TO BE MADE SLAVES AND CONCUBINES.

WHATEVER HAPPENS TO YOU, PRINCE KAIL WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU.

I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT THAT

I'M SKINNY AND NOT AT ALL BEAUTIFUL.

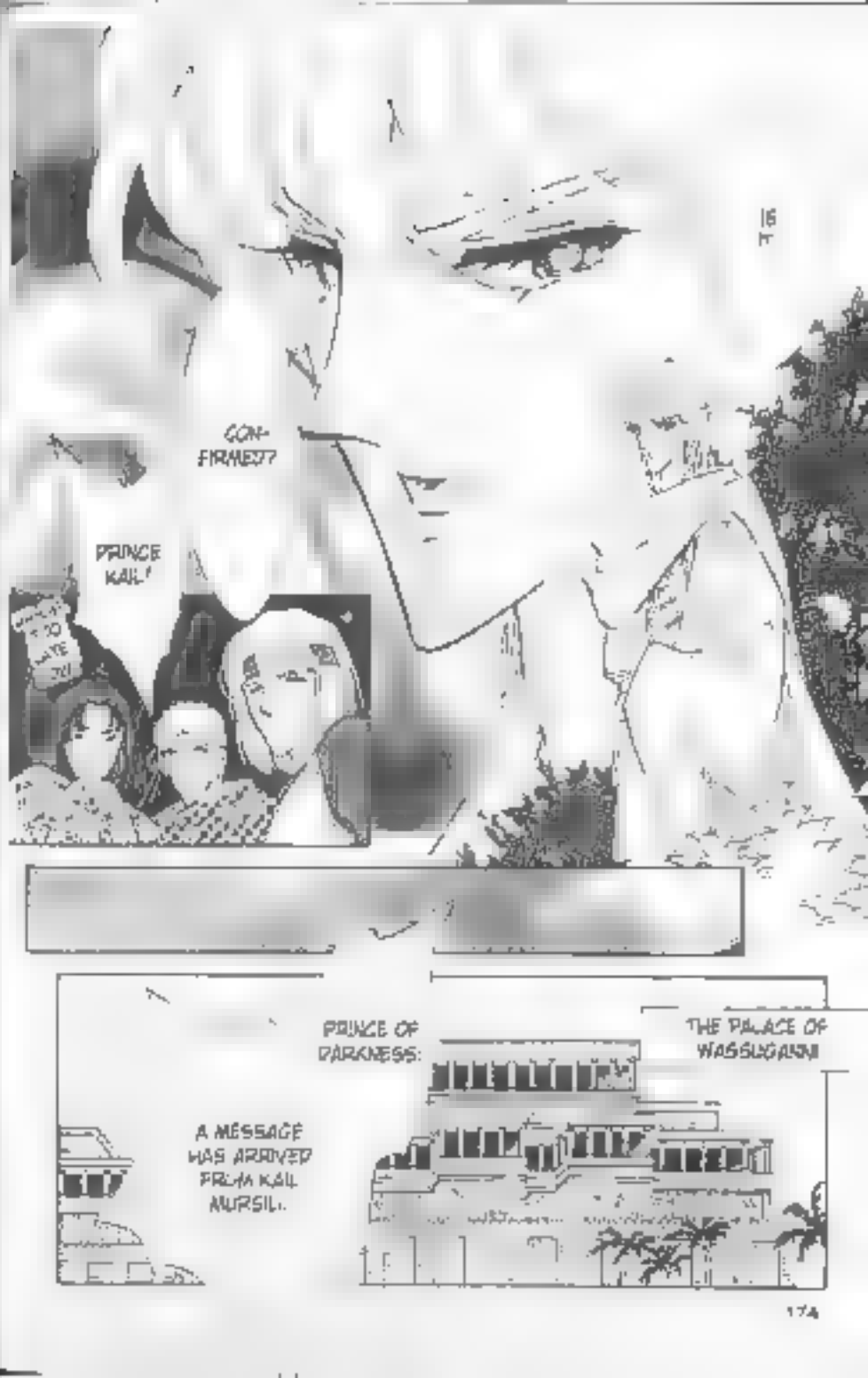
LIKE THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS SAID I AM ONLY A CHILD.

I HEARD THE MEN DISCUSSING IT
THEY SAID THEY GOT THE STORY FROM AN ASSYRIAN CARAVAN.
THAT CAN'T BE!
HITTITE EMPIRE
KAIL MURSILI'S CAMP
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?!
THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS HAS TAKEN PRINCESS YURI AS HIS WOMAN?
HMM. WELL, LET'S NOT TELL PRINCE KAIL!
AND HAVE THE SOLDIERS KEEP QUIET ABOUT IT.
I HEARD THAT YURI HAS BEEN TAKEN INTO PRINCE MATTIWAZA'S SERAGLIO.

ISHTAR NOW SIDES WITH THE MITANNI.
ISHTAR NOW BELONGS TO THE MITANNI PRINCE
DID YOU HEAR THAT?
ISHTAR IS NOW THE CONCUBINE OF THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS.
IS THAT TRUE?

I HEARD THAT THE HITTITE'S ISHTAR HAS BECOME THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS'S CONCUBINE
THAT'S GOOD NEWS.
NOW THE MITANNI WILL ENJOY ISHTAR'S DIVINE PROTECTION.

A MESSAGE FROM PRINCE KAIL?
KAIL MURSIL? WHAT IS IT?
HAH!
BUT HOLD YOUR TONGUE OR THIS GIRL DIES, UNDERSTOOD?
I'LL ALLOW YOU TO STAY AND HEAR HIS MESSAGE.
PRINCE KAIL REQUESTS AN EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS.
TO PRINCE MATTIWAZA, REPRESENTATIVE OF KING TUSHRATTA OF THE MITANNI
ALLOW ME TO DELIVER THIS MESSAGE FROM MY MASTER, PRINCE KAIL MURSIL.


CONFIRMED?
PRINCE KAIL!
PRINCE OF DARKNESS:
A MESSAGE HAS ARRIVED FROM KAIL MURSIL.
THE PALACE OF WASSUGANNI

NOT A WORD. UNDERSTOOD?

BUT BEFORE I GO, MAY I PAY MY RESPECTS TO ISHTAR?

I SHALL TELL HUR, YOUR HIGHNESS.

TELL MURSIL THIS. IF HE WANTS HIS PEOPLE BACK, HE'LL HAVE TO TAKE THEM BY FORCE

HIS OFFER IS NOT ACCEPTABLE

I BEG YOUR PROTECTION ON MY JOURNEY BACK.

THOUGH YOU NOW BELONG TO ANOTHER NATION, ISHTAR IS MISTAR.

PLEASE TELL PRINCE KAIL

THAT HE IS THE ONLY ONE I LOVE

AN EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS? WHAT A RIDICULOUS NOTION!

THE DETAILS ARE IN THIS LETTER, YOUR HIGHNESS

HE'S BREAKING OPEN THE LETTER.

WHAT'S HE DOING?

NO COUNTRY WOULD AGREE TO SUCH A PROPOSAL

KRAK

WHAT IS MURSIL THINKING?

WE WRITE A MESSAGE ON A CLAY TABLET, BAKE IT, ENVELOP IT IN UNBAKED CLAY, INSCRIBE THE RECIPIENT'S NAME AND ADDRESS.

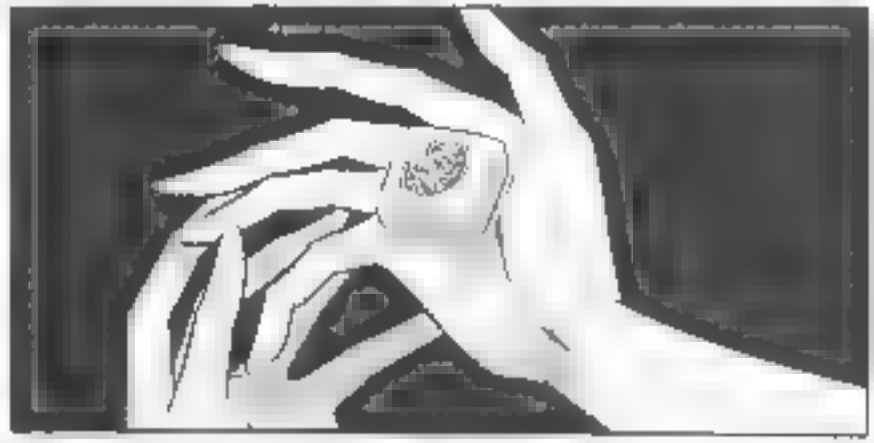
BAKE IT AGAIN AND SEND IT OUT

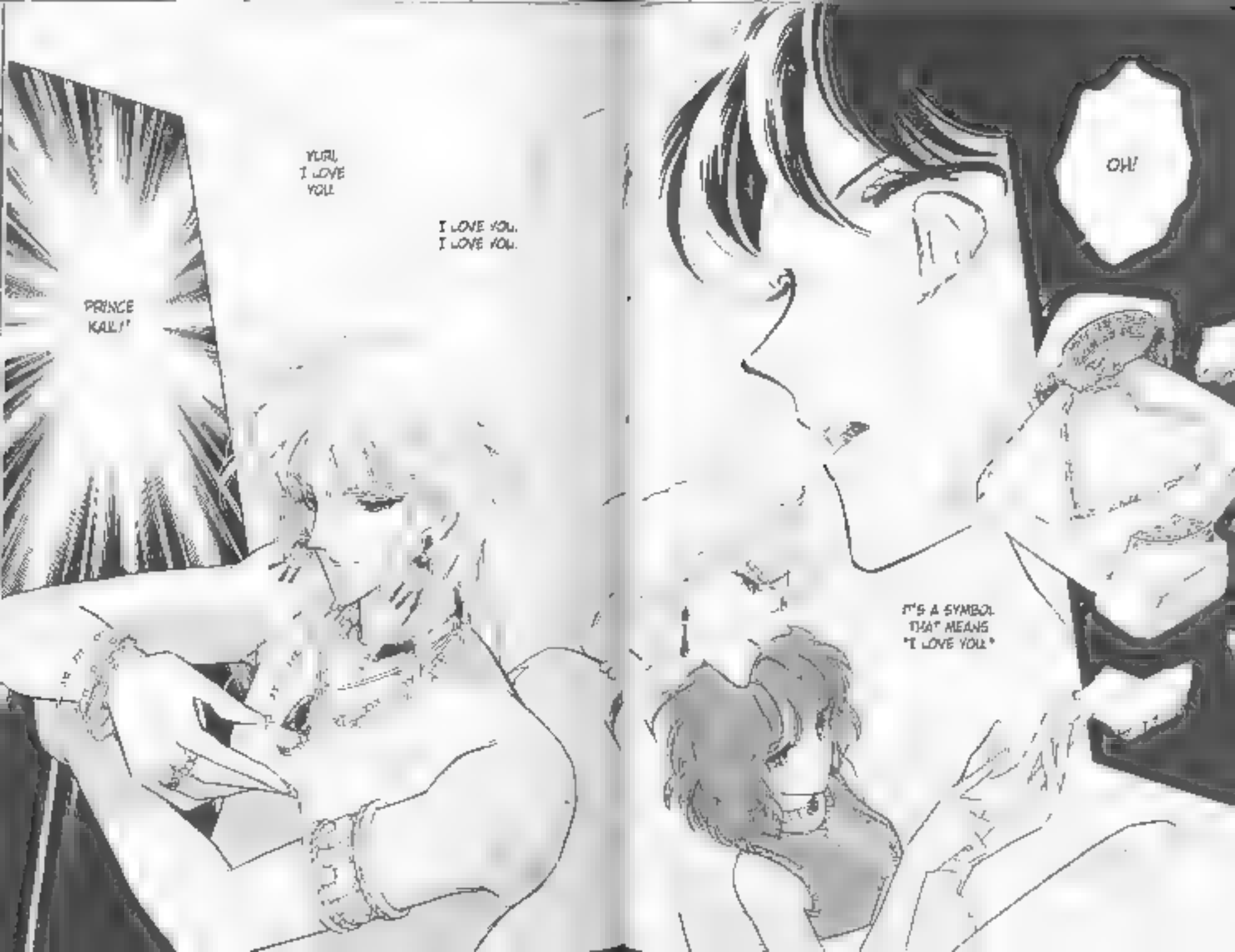
PAPER IS COSTLY AND RARE.

SO WE USE CLAY TABLETS FOR CORRESPONDENCE.

FROM PRINCE KAL?
YES, THIS IS PRINCE KAL'S SEAL
OH. IT'S A NOTE FROM PRINCE KAL!
PRINCE KAL SENT ME A MESSAGE!
GIVE IT TO ME. I'LL READ IT FOR YOU.
WHAT?
TAK
TAK
BUT I CAN'T READ CLANEFORM.
IT PROBABLY SAYS HE'S COMING TO RESCUE YOU SOON.
WHAT IS THIS?
IT'S NOT A LETTER.

I'M GOING TO MY ROOM.
PRINCESS YURI?
I WISH YOU ALL HAPPINESS, GODDESS. GOOD-BYE.




PRINCE KAL!!
YURI, I LOVE YOU!
I LOVE YOU. I LOVE YOU.
OH!
IT'S A SYMBOL THAT MEANS "I LOVE YOU."

TELL MY ELDER SISTER NAKIA THAT I SHALL TURN MATTIWAZA'S SERAGLIO INTO THAT GIRL'S [redacted].
EXCELLENT, URHI.
LET ME DEAL WITH THAT LITTLE PEST.
YES, PRINCESS NADIA.
QUEEN NAKIA WILL BE VERY HAPPY TO HEAR THAT.

I'M OKAY...
I'LL HANG ON.
...JUST SO THAT HE COULD GET THIS TO PRINCESS YURI.
PRINCE KAIL CAME UP WITH HIS UNLIKELY PROPOSAL...
I'LL HANG ON UNTIL YOU COME FOR ME, PRINCE KAIL!!

ILLUSTRATION / GALLERY

SCANED BY CHROKO.J EDITOR AKITO - SAMA